the SPARTANA

NEWS A new personal finance class is added to the curriculum to teach students about fiscal responsibility and finances. 2A

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FEATURE A ten year tribute to the victims and families impacted from 9/11. Students and teachers share memories from that day. 8A

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Construction on building improves crowds, noise

By Laura Zeng
Copy Editor

Construction wrapped up just in time for the new school year. Several changes were made to both the building and the parking lots, the most notable being the renovation of the hallway that connects the math hallways to the cafeteria.

The construction expanding the cafeteria ramp was done in order to enlarge the once congested hallway to about twice its previous size. The project was considered a "top priority" this summer according Steve Sotir, director of maintenance.

"This project will certainly help with getting students to class and, more importantly, to a lunch a little quicker," Sotir said.

Going through the cafeteria hallway was an issue for many students in previous years as the small, overcrowded hallway was frequently used during the school day, particularly during lunch period.

"Mr. Kintz and I noticed that [the hallway] was a bottleneck," Assistant Principal Steve Lake said. "The only thing holding us back was a couple of vending machines that were never used. I think [the new construction] has helped students."

The expansion of the ramp was well-received by many stu

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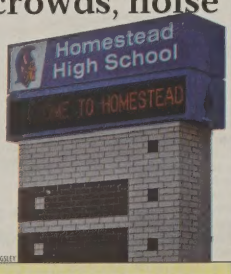

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

finding their way

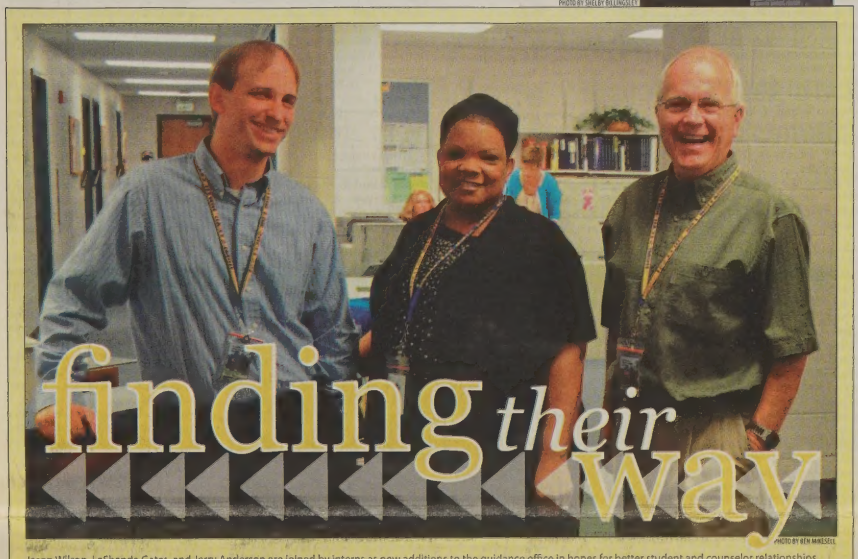

PHOTO BY BEN MAESEL

Jason Wilson, LaShanda Gates, and Jerry Anderson are joined by interns as new additions to the guidance office in hopes for better student and counselor relationships.

New counselors, interns increase guidance, scheduling affectability

By Tori Barnard
News Editor

Recent additions to the guidance staff have created change not only within the department, but in relation to students' assigned academic counselors as well.

Three new counselors, Jerry Anderson, LaShanda Gates, and Jason Wilson were hired this summer. With one counselor leaving after last year, the total number of counselors has increased from six to eight. Due to this influx of guidance staff, counselors now have a smaller pool of about 300 students with which they are assigned to work academically.

"Because we each have a smaller number of students to work with, there is increased visibility between students and counselors as well as increased and improved services," Wilson said. "Counselors can now spend more time working individually with students."

A change of counselor assignments amongst students was necessary in order to create a smaller ratio of students per counselor.

"It was important to lower this ratio in order to meet the needs of the students," Gates said. "The best thing was the much smoother schedule changes at registration because there were less students per counselor."

Although counselor assignments were previously decided alphabetically, this year the system was random, and many students were assigned to a new counselor; however, siblings were assigned to the same counselor.

"The plan is for students to have the same counselor all four years so we can easily follow them throughout high school," Anderson said. "By assigning siblings to the same counselor, we're able to work with families."

Furthermore, counselors Lindsay Lackland and Brian Dobias, who until this year worked ex-

SEE 'COUNSELORS,' PAGE 2A

FEATURE

Remembering September 11, 2001

On September 11, 2001 tragedy shook the country with terrorist hijacklings of four planes, two of which were flown into the World Trade Center in New York City, a third flown into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia and a fourth that crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Ten years later, as students and teachers remember the devastation they witnessed and horror they experienced that day, they reflect on how this event has changed and impacted their lives forever.

PHOTOS FROM THE POYNTER INSTITUTE

Online student, teacher contact raises concern

By Joe Janizek
Co-Editor-In-Chief

As Facebook continues to gain both teenage and adult users, the legitimacy of the social networking website as a medium of communication between teachers and students is being debated.

While there currently is no policy preventing student-teacher interaction on Facebook, teachers were warned by the SACS school attorney at the start of the year about the legal ramifications related to social media.

"On a student's Facebook wall, it's possible that [teachers] will see reports of illegal activities, which puts them in a situation where they would have to report that behavior," Assistant Superintendent Phil Downs said.

Similar situations at other schools have been handled with policies regulating teachers' use of social media. These policies, however, are now being challenged in appellate courts across the country.

For example, at the start of the 2010 – 2011 school year, a teachers' association in Florida challenged a policy that would limit their use of Facebook. The association challenged the policy in court, claiming that it violated their First Amendment rights.

No case of this type has reached the Supreme Court yet, so any decisions made are still up for appeal.

"We're going to wait for a final ruling in other areas before trying to make any policy," Downs said.

In addition to potential legal issues, Downs questioned the educational use of the site as a whole.

"When you look at Facebook specifically, the nature of the platform would cause me concern," Downs said. "There are other ways to be in contact with students that are much more in line with the type of conversa

SEE 'FACEBOOK,' PAGE 2A

Update to tardy policy inflicting harsher punishment on students

By Megan Cater
Writer

A major change in tardy policy has been implemented this year, creating harsher consequences for students. This policy could have negative effects on students if the change is not understood and followed.

In the past, when a student received a tardy, the student was given a warning until the fifth tardy was reached. At that point, the student was issued a one hour detention. When the sixth tardy was reached, the student would receive a two hour detention; after the sixth tardy, each tardy resulted in a two hour detention.

However, this updated tardy policy includes more severe punishments than previous years. This year, the consequences of student receiving his or her first through sixth tardy remain the same as before. The change from last year to this year, however, is what happens on the seventh tardy. This year, receiving a seventh tardy results in an in-school suspension. On the eighth tardy, a student receives two consecutive days of in-school suspension. The ninth tardy means three consecutive days of in-school suspension for the student. On the tenth tardy to class, a student receives out of school suspension "until further notice of re-entry meeting with counselor and/or administrator," according to the Student/Parent Handbook.

For some students, a detention can pose a huge problem, but for others detentions are not a huge concern. This mindset is especially true for students that rack up tardys often.

"[The tardy policy] is pretty ridiculous," Brandon Suter (10) said.

The consensus to toughen the tardy policy was reached when it became clear that detentions were not achieving their purpose.

"The tardy policy was changed because detentions weren't effective last year. We were scheduling detentions every day and saw the same people," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said. "We want to fix

SEE 'TARDY,' PAGE 2A

▸▸4
tardies are allowed before a student receives consequences of greater measures, a number that has not changed from recent years

Weekly advisory receives positive encouragement

By Joe Laughlin
Sports Editor

As Advisory becomes increasingly integrated into the school schedule, students are now required to attend the class once a week. This is an increase from the initial biweekly schedule set last year.

The modification of the advisory schedule is an attempt to mitigate the schedule confusion that often occurred last year. Moreover, the change was implemented to allow adequate time for students and teachers to develop relationships.

"One of the main goals of Advisory is to establish relationships between students and teachers," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said. "Without a consistent schedule or greater time in Advisory, this would be difficult to achieve."

The increased frequency of Advisory will consist of more time in the classroom; this action is designated to keep students interacting with each other, enabling the creation of deeper relationships and smaller learning communities.

Advisory will still feature the Navigation 101 curriculum, as the class will still serve as a college preparatory tool. The online requirements and tasks, which will still be completed during designated Advisory periods, will provide students with the same information that it did last year.

The content available to students within the Navigation 101 tasks has been updated, and technical revisions have been made.

Teachers have met the schedule change regarding Advisory with appraisal. They feel that the new abundance of class time will allow students to become more familiar with one another.

"I'm hoping that with the schedule change this year, students will get to know both the teacher and other students better within their advisory group," Spanish teacher Kristin Padgett said.

Teachers also believe advisory is a way for students to provide the faculty with valuable feedback.

"I think advisory can be a great outlet for students to share their thoughts on school issues with an adult," Padgett said.

In contrast to the faculty, students have been more apprehensive of the schedule change. The main source of frustration for the students is the persistence of the Navigation 101 program. Students find the class to be time-consuming and unhelpful.

"I was already frustrated with the Navigation 101 curriculum, for it was too basic and repetitive," Joel Foreman (12) said. "The teachers are forcing us to occupy ourselves with a waste of time for almost a full class period."

To those who remain critical of Navigation 101, the administration feels as though students are too quick to assume they are prepared for college and are undermining the value of the program.

"Students often say 'I know where I am going, I know what I am doing,' however they may not know the best way to get wherever 'there' is," Bay said.

The disdain with which students regard Advisory does not universally apply to the student body. A survey conducted at the conclusion of last year indicated that while most upper

SEE 'ADVISORY,' PAGE 2A

BRIEFS

SAT PREP CLASSES
A six week session begins on Sept. 28, sign up forms are available in Student Services or from Mr. Stailey. The verbal section meets on Wednesdays and the math section on Thursdays.

PHOTO RETAKES
Picture retakes are scheduled for September 25, along with new students and others not at registration. Students must return packets to the photographer that day if they want credit for the money paid. Ordering information is available in offices and the publication suite.

BEGINNER'S TRIATHOLON
Registration deadline is Sept. 23 and forms are available from any PE teacher. It will be held on Sunday, October 2 with swimming in the SACS pool, biking on the Indian Trails path and running on Summit's track.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: Officer Tinkel has joined the Glenbrook Mall security staff.
Status: False - One of the most beloved figureheads of the staff, Officer Tinkel surprised students with his absence on the first day of school. Upon returning from summer vacation, students were puzzled by Officer Tinkel's absence after seeing him at registration. Many students wondered how they were to eat lunch and walk through the hallways without Officer Tinkel's watchful eye keeping them out of harm's way.

Ingrid Herriott, the newly-appointed Student Resource Officer, assured that Officer Tinkel has taken a new position in the police force.

"He is now a public information officer," Officer Herriott said. "If the police department needs a representative to answer news teams' questions about crimes or accidents, they now send Officer Tinkel."

As returning students remember, Officer Tinkel was not a one-man act. Rarely was he seen without Caymen, his trusted canine companion.

"He's retired," Officer Herriott said regarding Caymen's whereabouts.

Officer Tinkel has left behind many devoted fans but will not be forgotten. If students wish to see his smiling face again, they need only watch the news for word about detrimental traffic accidents.

▸▸ FACEBOOK CONTINUED FROM 1A

tion we want to occur."

Despite warnings from the district administration, several teachers and administrators continue to use Facebook to contact and monitor students.

"[My Facebook] was done because I oversee the dance program for the district," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said. "I tell [the dancers] they shouldn't be hiding anything from their coaches, so that we can keep them making good decisions."

Additionally, Facebook's prevalence among students puts it in a unique position, allowing teachers an easy way to contact students about work at school or extra-curricular activities, according to Bay.

"We use it a lot for communicating. People really don't use email anymore," Bay said. "If it's used right and monitored, I don't think there's any harm. I think there are educational values, even though we are still encouraged not to use it."

Regardless of the site's value in the opinion of teachers and staff, the student body at large may not be interested in interacting with their educators on Facebook.

"I'm not friends with any of my teachers," Keldon Snyder (11) said. "I think Facebook can give teachers too intimate of a look into students' lives, as well as giving students too intimate of a look into teachers' lives."

The policies and warnings of the district may be irrelevant, according to students. Whether the district institutes an official policy or not, students may still choose to avoid Facebook friendships with teachers.

"It seems like a lot of students wouldn't want to be Facebook friends with their teachers," Snyder said.

▸▸ TARDY CONTINUED FROM 1A

the problem so it doesn't keep happening."

Another aspect of the tardy policy that shocked numerous students deals with driving. During the class meetings on Wednesday, August 18, many students heard about an Indiana State law involving tardys and driving privileges for the first time. Indiana law states that if a student receives two days of out of school suspension, that student's license will get suspended for 180 days. Although this law is nothing new, getting tardys could now result in license suspension for students. Therefore, if a student were to receive twenty tardies in one semester, he or she would have received two days of out of school suspension and could have their license suspended.

"[The policy] is bad because kids will be suspended for being fifteen seconds late to class, then [it takes] away their driving privileges outside of school because they walked too slow (sic)," Suter said.

Although the tardy count is reset at the end of the semester, several students got up to thirty or forty tardys a semester last year.

"With this new policy, the tardys hopefully won't snowball like last year," Bay said. "Once people see their friends getting in- school suspensions from tardys, the awareness will sink in."

▸▸ ADVISORY CONTINUED FROM 1A

classmen did not appreciate Advisory, last year's freshmen and sophomores were more inclined to enjoy the class.

"Advisory is a time to sit with good people and reflect on school," Will Northquist (11) said. "it allows us to enjoy one another without the pressure of obligations weighing us down."

This schedule change is the most recent of three schedule changes that have been enacted since the program's inception. The first year the program was held, theme-based lessons were held once a month. Last year, the Navigation 101 program was introduced, and students were required to participate in advisory periods twice per month.

As the school year continues, students are anxious to see the new advisory schedule unfold. Students anticipate innovative and helpful strategies for both getting to know their peers better and preparing for college more efficiently.

"I'm excited to have advisory every week now, and I hope this resolves all complications that have arisen with the advisory schedule before," Northquist said.

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Smart phones can use this QR-code to be directly taken to The Spartana's Twitter page to join in on following the latest sports updates and news.

clusively with freshmen in the ▸▸

COUNSELORS CONTINUED FROM 1A

Ninth Grade Academy, have moved into the main guidance office in Student Services. This year they work with students in all grades.

The new counselors have undergone challenges while adjusting to their new work environment. "The real challenge is learning about an entirely new group of kids in order to help them," Wilson said. "Part of that challenge is in allowing the students time to adjust to new personalities."

Not only did the new counselors have to adjust to working with new people, but within a new system.

"The hardest thing for me was learning a new system," Gates said.

If students feel uncomfortable working with one of the new counselors, they are still able to see any counselor of choice for personal reasons and can still work with a previous academic counselor.

"I understand students' desires to meet with their old counselors," Gates said. "Everyone seems to have been working well with the new counselors though."

Although students will be provided with more face time with their counselor this year than in previous years, some question having to change counselors that they've gotten accustomed to over the past couple years. Seniors in particular experienced reluctance to switch counselors.

"After having the same counselor for the past two years, you do have a sort of comfort level with that person and things just seem to work out," Matt Sagstetter (12) said. "However, I have never really needed my counselor for much other than an occasional meeting where we basically talked about things I already knew, so I really don't think the counselor change will be that bad."

> "After having the same counselor for the past two years, you do have a sort of comfort level with that person and things just seem to work out."
>
> **MATT SAGSTETTER (12)**
> *Student Impacted by Switch*

Communication between students' former and new counselors has been essential in the continuity of academic guidance from last year.

"We're trying to make the transition as seamless as possible," Wilson said. "I haven't encountered it a lot but there has been some weariness to see a new counselor about academics, but we are willing to work with a student's old counselor."

Although all the counselors are working together in order to deal with students who had to switch, students have experienced problems due to the change.

"I sent in schedule changes near the deadline last year, and at registration I had scheduling problems," Kate Troutman (11) said. "Because my counselor was switched this year, the process to fix my schedule took much longer dealing with two counselors instead of one."

However, most students don't see the switch up as that much of a change from the guidance they've received from their counselor in previous years.

"I look forward to working with my new counselor with planning for college, but I have a feeling most

▸▸ CONSTRUCTION CONTINUED FROM 1A

dents.

"In the main hallways, people always used to get shoved, but now, by the cafeteria, the shoving has greatly decreased because of the widened hallway," said Katrina Miller (11).

However, some students believe that the renovation of the hallway has done more harm than good.

"The hallway is nice, but people just stand there and do nothing," Hanita Epstein (11) said. "I'm trying to hustle to math class, but I can't get through because of the traffic."

Teachers have similar attitudes toward the renovated hallway, saying that the ramp has helped by giving more room for students, but that it also encourages students to socialize in the larger space.

"I think traffic's been better because it did clear up the traffic," Brandon Shramek, a math teacher in room 503 next to the ramp, said. "However, morning crowding has increased since the new ramp has become more of a commons area like other large hallways in the school."

Other construction projects completed over the summer include: an extra room in the math hallway, room 511, additional ceiling tile and insulation in the math hallway, routine maintenance construction on the parking lots, a new sign at the front of the school and a health clinic for SACS employees.

Room 511 and the additional ceiling tiles and insulation in the math hallways were replaced because the opportunity was right, according to Principal Rick Smith.

"We had the space, and it's good to have another room for ISTEP+ testing," Smith said. "Also, since construction was already underway and we had enough room in our budget, we constructed the new room and added ceiling tiles and insulation to the math hallways."

The construction done in the parking lots is a part of a maintenance project to ensure that the parking lots are safe for student drivers.

"The parking lot maintenance happens every summer in order to address areas that fail during the winter months," Sotir said. "This allows us to repair smaller sections each year while spreading the cost over a longer period of time."

The sign in front of the school was repaired because it had issues with holes in the asphalt and electrical issues.

All construction projects were funded by the Capital Projects' Fund and the SACS Employee Insurance Trust Fund.

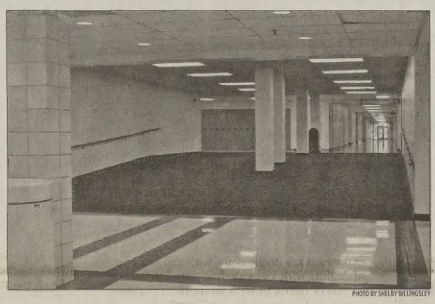

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

The hallway and ramp by the cafeteria was expanded this summer to help the flow of this major hallway at lunch times.

New finance class prepares students for future money management, debt

By Sydney Brummett
Writer

A new class is being added to the required course load for graduation. Along with classes such as gym and health, Personal Finance will be necessary for students to take in order to graduate.

The Personal Finance class will help students build skills in financial responsibility and decision making. Also, it covers topics such as planning and managing money, credit, debt, risk management and insurance. The teacher for the course is still undecided, but according to Business Department Chair Brian McNeal there will probably be more than one teacher, possibly three.

This class may not seem important to students now, and it may even seem like a burden to have to take, but the class will be beneficial in the future, according to McNeal.

"Indiana is low on adult financial planning which sets themselves up for debt as adults. Personal Finance will help students prepare for debt because in this economy, in the world that we live in, choices are not based on income they are based on how nice of a car or house a person wants," McNeal said.

The class will help students prepare to deal with these issues.

"Not all adults think about how much they can spend, they just spend. This course will help students prepare to make choices based on income," McNeal said.

Without this class students might not be aware of what is to come when making choices about money later in life.

This course will as a Directed Elective or Elective for the General, Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors and Core 40 with Technical Honors diplomas. So, no matter which diploma the student is working toward, this required elective will help them work toward graduation and adulthood.

Personal Finance is also one of the courses specified in the sequence of courses for all Career Clusters and all of Indiana's College and Career Pathway Plans.

> "Personal Finance will help students prepare for debt because in this economy, [...] choices are not based on income they are based on how nice of a car or house a person wants."
>
> **BRIAN MCNEAL**
> *Business Department Chair*

Personal Finance can be taken any year during the student's high school career, although it is suggested to be taken during the Freshman year. This might be difficult for any student who is in the other required electives, heath and gym, or any other different elective, would more than likely not be able to fit the new elective into their schedule during Freshman year. Due to this, the student would have to try to fit the required class into their schedule during one of the last three years of high school.

Not only did the Indiana Department of Education require high schools to introduce new classes, the middle schools did as well. According to the Personal Financial Responsibility Instruction Guidelines for Implementation, the middle school level replaces the career education units in Middle School Business and Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences programs with Exploring College and Careers.

These guideline changes for the Personal Financial Responsibility Instruction were required by Indiana Code 20-30-5-19, as added by Public Law 154-2009 (House Enrolled Act 1581), which became effective on July 1, 2009. Although this was effective on July 1, 2009, Homestead has not required the class until the 2011-2012 school year, due to having to hire a teacher and getting the required materials for the classes that will take place.

With the student body having to now take another required class, they all might not be happy, but in the end the Department of Education and high schools feel that the new implanted class, Personal Finance, will help the students be successful in adulthood.

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Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

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Raising Debt Ceiling, 3

Arguing Congress is unable to reach reasonable outcome to resolve increasingly severe debt problem, forcing president to help with new plan.

PHOTO FROM WWW.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

Congress botches debt ceiling debate

Presidential intervention necessary to avert impending nationwide economic crisis

By Colton Shaffer
Copy Editor

If the United States' government was a character in "Star Wars," it would be the Sith Apprentice, Darth Maul, wielding a double-bladed light saber. Whatever the outcome of the battle, the recent clash over whether or not to raise the already ridiculous $14.3 trillion debt ceiling will cause some damage to the American and the global economy.

Attempting to prevent a cataclysmic ending for the country, President Obama signed a bill that brought the debt ceiling crisis of 2011, a crisis that threatened to lead the United States into sovereign default, to its knees. The president was perfectly justified in doing so given the fact that the alternative was a partial government shut-down that would lead to mass unemployment for government workers, vanishing social services, and a crippling blow to the American economy. This would have carried consequences far more grievous than the 'AA+' credit rating that occurred as a result of the bickering over the raise.

President Obama's plan, however, is not without fault. Though the Budget Control Act of 2011 saved the United States from a far heavier sentence than a small economic falter, it did little more than delay the inevitable. The many-headed monster of the debt ceiling crisis will undoubtedly return with a vengeance. Furthermore, this so-called solution does nothing to resolve the actual problem – the fact that the United States is living far beyond its means.

Every year since 1969, Congress has spent more money than it has gained. Currently, every month, the United States borrows a mind-blowing $100 billion just to keep functioning. This kind of overspending is absolutely unsustainable. This is the kind of thinking that got many American citizens into the financial troubles that caused the massive decline in the housing market and the resulting economic recession. President after president has put off this vast oversight in the national budget, reasoning that this is someone else's problem.

The members of Congress are little help. While Republicans and Democrats wrestle for control of the metaphorical Galactic Empire, they seem to have forgotten the fact that they are on the same side. The supposedly brilliant minds that are running this country have done nothing but squabble and have produced nothing but half-hearted agreements to make lackluster and insufficient budget cuts. Members of both major parties need to put their differences aside and start working together to find a solution that not only lets the United States pay its bills without raising the debt ceiling further, but also does not put excessive strain on the pocketbooks of hard-working American citizens who are by no means at fault for the government's lack of planning.

That being said, taxes on American citizens may have to be raised slightly, as undesirable as that sounds. The fact remains that the benefits and services that are a part of living in one of the greatest countries in the world simply are not cheap. The rapidly increasing national deficit is quickly reaching the point of no return, and if everyone can reach an agreement and pitch in, strain can be minimized and results can be maximized.

President Obama was successful. He prevented a major blow to the American economy by raising the debt ceiling. Despite this, the crisis that was so narrowly averted will undoubtedly rear its ugly head yet again. The decisions that Congress and the president make from here on will assuredly change the course of the American budget and way of life. Hopefully, they choose wisely, begin to spend within their means and convert the Empire into a New Republic of which we can all be proud.

▶▶14.3 trillion
dollar debt ceiling, the maximum amount that the United States can be in debt at any one time, under current law.

LEFT AND WRITE:

Rick Perry too concered with legislating morality, would not succeed as president

By Clair Pranger
Co-Opinion Editor

Although the next presidential election is still over a year away, Republicans are wasting no time in gearing up for another attack on the Oval Office. Like many of his Republican brethren, James Richard "Rick" Perry is running his campaign as part of the crusade against the current administration.

The Perry campaign stands on a radically conservative platform that focuses mainly on bringing the national debt under control by creating jobs, reducing spending and cutting property and business taxes.

What most Republicans cannot seem to understand is that cutting both government spending and taxes is not the way to curb the national debt nor is it the way to solve the nation's current crisis. To save in the future and bring the debt under control, the government must raise taxes and spend money now to, as FDR put it, "prime the pump."

That being said, the 61-year-old governor of Texas is wasting no time in making the rounds to gain support for his candidacy. According to a Gallup poll released on Aug. 24, Perry leads among Republicans and Republican-leaning Independents at 29 percent of the potential vote, while Mitt Romney and Ron Paul follow at 17 percent and 13 percent respectively.

To the trained eye, however, Perry looks like nothing more than a slightly less cerebral George W. Bush copy. Having lived through the aftermath of eight years under the Bush Administration, the threat of another four is enough to make any sane person run for common sense.

Republicans claim that they want to return America back to its moral roots and seem to think that this can be accomplished by coaxing the United States down from what they believe to be the precipice that is the takeover of an intrusive central government. It seems that in every issue that divides Republicans and Democrats, the only way Republicans can garner votes is by attempting to claim the moral high ground of every situation.

Perry mentions on his campaign website that the "great moral indifference on the part of the Obama Administration" toward China's one-child policy generates more aborted fetuses as a byproduct of the law. This point is irrelevant, as it is doubtful that any impact would be made if the president expressed his displeasure with China's way of dealing with an exploding population?

Perry needs to stick to more important issues rather than worry about the moral track this country is on. Individual morality should be left up to none other than the individual. Americans should no longer be fooled by the fervidly Bible-thumping moral enthusiasts that run rampant in the GOP. Religion has no place in politics, and its implied morality should not be a leg to stand on in the race for the next Commander in Chief.

If Perry intends to win the election through false promises to return America back to a fictional moral foundation, that sounds more like a departure than a return to a country founded on the principles of freedom and democracy. The job of the president is to run the country justly and to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution," not to tell its citizens how to live.

Rick Perry's legitimacy as Republican presidential candidate up for debate

Perry carries new hope for Republicans hoping to find Reaganesque candidate

By Sarah Bade
Writer

Rick Perry declared his intent to run for the Republican nomination on Aug. 13. Just a few days after the announcement was declared, Perry's name seemed to soar to the top of the leader board.

Citizens support Perry because he seems to take the best qualities from each of the Republican candidates and combine them all into one person. He seems to have taken a portion of Michelle Bachmann's conservative base, a segment of Ron Paul's Second Amendment advocates and a modest section of Romney's pro-business moderates.

With the help of Perry's support system, he has reached the top of several polls, including the Rasmussen Poll, Gallup, Daily Caller/Conservative Home and Public Policy Polling.

Part of Perry's appeal also stems from his strong pro-life position which is popular among social conservatives. He is also very conservative on economic issues, supporting moving taxes to record lows and cutting even more spending.

On another side of the campaign, his winning and charismatic personality and his talent as a strong and articulate communicator could win him votes. These are important qualities because a president who cannot communicate with the people cannot lead the people.

Perry has experiences that would help him in the Oval Office. He was governor of Texas for over 10 years. During his term, Texas became the most business-friendly state in the nation, according to CNBC and Chief Executive Magazine. Another technique that Perry could use is his method that succeeded in balancing Texas' state budget every year he has been governor.

Perry has also succeeded in lowering property taxes for the residents of Texas while keeping Texas free of income taxes. If this could work on the country as a whole, then citizens would have more money to spend which could potentially improve America's economy.

By governing Texas, he also has the experience and the knowledge of the impact and problems that illegal immigrants have on America. This proves to be useful, knowing that this is a considerably large issue that is facing this country.

> "[Perry's] winning and charismatic personality and his talent as a strong communicator could win him votes."
>
> **SARAH BADE**
> *Writer*

Perry would be an ideal candidate to win the Republican nomination for president because his policies and experiences would not only help stabilize America but could allow this nation rise to its full potential.

Republicans have been trying to find the next Ronald Reagan, and Perry could be the closest candidate with as much energy, spirit and serious conservative obligation as Reagan had for the Republican Party and the nation during his time as president of the United States.

facebook crawl

Every Sunday night Facebook Expert Jacob Cook will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.

Question: "What should Jay-Z and Beyonce name their new baby?"

Andrew Rowan (11) ▶▶ "Jay-B."

Shane Talley (12) ▶▶ "Jumanji."

Sophia Rosenblum (10) ▶▶ "Sashaaaa Middle Name Fierce."

John Schneider (12) ▶▶ "Jay-BEY-Z."

Joe Hanauer ('11) ▶▶ "If it's a boy, Otis. If it's a girl, Problem #100."

Joe Brown, Jr. (12) ▶▶ "If it's a boy I'd name it Joe Brown, Jr."

Michael Kitch (11) ▶▶ "Florence. Or Larry. Those come to mind when thinking of Jay-Z and Beyonce."

Nick Myers (9) ▶▶ "Boy: Bonce. Girl: Bay."

Edwin Wakaba (12) ▶▶ "Well if it's a guy they should name hime Jonce. If it's a girl, Anneliese is a cool name."

Nate Miller (12) ▶▶ "If a boy, Kevin. If a girl, Destiny's Child."

Elliot Haley (12) ▶▶ "Aariah if a girl, K'Deah if a boy."

Aaron Didion (12) ▶▶ "Janaya."

Dress code crackdown indicates underlying issues

The Ed Board

Ryan H. S. Boylan
Mary Distler
Joe Janizek
Joe Laughlin
Connor O'Hara
Clair Pranger

While no changes have been made to the actual dress code this year, the school's enforcement of the policy has noticeably changed. Rather than the occasional enforcement by teachers that was last year's norm, school-wide crackdowns handled by administrators have become the new policy.

The school's new dress code "blitzes" have not managed to improve the dress code problem. Instead, they have only exacerbated the underlying issues surrounding dress code violations, and served as a distraction from the academic content of the school day.

The entire point of enforcing a dress code is to minimize distractions during school. Pulling students out of class for the most minor infractions, forcing teachers to take time out of their class, and unneccesarily humiliating students is counterproductive. By enforcing the dress code using these blitzes, the school has managed to create more of a distraction than that which initially existed.

The number of students actually sent down during the blitz indicates that teachers may agree with this attitude. Anyone walking the halls can see that a greater number of students than those that were sent down were in violation on the day of the last dress code blitz.

Inconsistency of enforcement creates an unsure atmosphere among students, as some teachers choose to require students to adhere to the dress code, while others seem not to care. Even though refusing to discipline those who would break the dress code seems to be a direct violation of contract, some teachers have decided that to enforce the policy would be worse than to not.

There is clearly a problem with a policy when it is disregarded universally at the school. Both teachers and students, for whatever reasons, have decided that the policy is not worth enforcing or following. Despite the intent of the administration, the policy is not being implemented to decrease distraction, and is instead either being ignored, or causing more problems.

This of course, does not excuse the students who are guilty of dress code violations. While their offenses may not be worthy of the distracting new punishments, it does not make it acceptable for students to show up for school dressed inappropriately. The dress code does exist for a reason, even if its current iteration is unenforceable.

> "Inconsistancy of enforcement creates an unsure atmosphere among students, as some teachers choose to require students to adhere to the dress code, while others seem not to care."

This is where the problem lies. While the dress code is not inherently unreasonable, clothing companies do not make clothing, especially for girls, that the school would consider appropriate under current policy. This puts students in a difficult situation where the dress code allows students to wear clothing like shorts in theory, but not in practice. Due to the confusion, teachers may be hesitant to enforce the policy, and students may unintentionally disobey the rules.

Shorts may be the best example of the problems inherent in the current policy. While they are generally not acceptable attire in the business world, the administration has decided to allow students to wear shorts to school. This allowance, however, is tied to severe restrictions regulating what attire is considered acceptable.

If students' fingertips, when extended straight down while standing up, go past the end of their shorts, the shorts would be in violation of the policy.

Almost all shorts manufactured by clothing companies are too short for the current policy, and are therefore essentially banned. The fact that shorts in general are not banned, however, makes students think that shorts are still something that could be worn to school.

If the administration wants to have a dress code that is fair and followable, they are left with two options. Completely ban shorts at school, stop enforcing the dress code policy in regards to shorts. It would not be unreasonable to ban shorts, as shorts are not considered to be appropriate at an actual job. On the other hand, students walk to and from school, which would be uncomfortable to do without shorts during the warmer months.

Either way, it is clear that something needs to change. Rather than reducing distractions during the school day, the current dress policy is increasing the number of distractions and is decreasing the amount of time students are spending in class.

{The Bottom Line} Rather than trying to enforce an unadherable policy, the administration should consider revising the rules.

PHOTO BY TORI BARNARD
PHOTO FROM WWW.GADGETS-REVIEW.COM

PHOTO COURTESY ERIN BRADLEY

pumped up kids recount summer concerts

Music festivals, concerts entertain students' summers

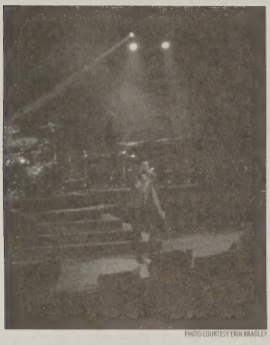


PHOTO COURTESY ERIN BRADLEY

Above: Train and Adam Levine preform at the Maroon 5 concert in Indianapolis in August. Below: At Chicago's Lollapalooza, Walk the Moon and Ellie Goulding preformed with over 100 bands that got the chance to be a part of the festival.

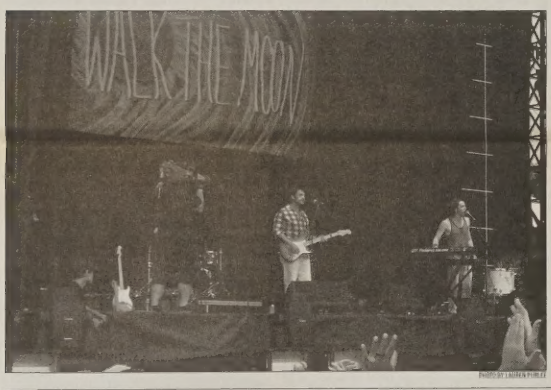


PHOTO BY LAUREN PUBLEY

PHOTO BY LAUREN PUBLEY

LAURA ZWEIG
Copy Editor

This year, summer concerts seem to be hitting all the right notes.

Despite the excruciating heat, hundreds of bands converged in the Midwest to share their music with happy Hoosier fans. From the well-publicized Lollapalooza to the lesser-known Pitchfork music festival, students and faculty took advantage of the ability to see several of their favorite bands in one trip.

First was Warped Tour, a festival famous for showcasing punk-rock. Max Dvorak (11) attended the Chicago concert with a group of his friends on July 9, excited to see the lineup that included 3OH!3, Jack's Mannequin, The Devil Wears Prada, and All Time Low.

"It was my first time going to [Warped Tour], and I would definitely go back," Dvorak said. "There were probably forty bands there. I got to see Against Me, which was my favorite, The Wonder Years, Simple Plan, and Go Radio."

Dvorak, who went into the concert with low expectations, was pleasantly surprised by what he saw.

On July 16, English teacher Scott Hill trekked to Chicago to be a part of one day of the three day Pitchfork Music Festival. Animal Collective and TV on the Radio headlined the annual festival that was first held in 2006. Because the festival included so many bands, Hill had difficulty deciding to which band to see.

"You have to make choices since there are two stages running at one time," Hill said. "I saw Deerhunter, Ariel Pink, Kurt Vile, and Odd Future."

In addition to battling indecision, Hill also had to combat the heat.

"My friend and I were referring to it as 'Sweatfork,'" Hill said.

Chicago played host to yet another festival from August 5-7: Lollapalooza. Since its inception in 1991 by Jane's Addiction singer Perry Farrell, Lollapalooza has been known for its huge array of bands and its big names. This year's headliners included Muse and Coldplay.

> "Some bands really love what they do and really get into it. They make it a cool experience, and I like seeing bands live to feel that energy."
>
> **MAX DVORAK (11)**
> *Warped Tour Attendee*

Riley McComb (12) attended day two where she was able to see Walk the Moon, Ellie Goulding, Super Smash Bros, Skylar Grey, Eminem, and Cee Lo Green.

"My favorite act was probably Ellie Goulding because they threw out these really cool sunglasses shaped like stars," McComb said.

After a great first experience, McComb plans to go all three days next year.

"I'd love to be able to see Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeroes or Adele or Florence + the Machine," McComb said.

One of the appeals of concert festivals is the opportunity to see a multitude of bands for a low price. A one-day pass for these festivals ranged from $30-$90.

Another activity enjoyed by those who attended these concert festivals was people-watching.

"Before we went, we saw an ad in the newspaper that said '90,000 Weirdoes at Lollapalooza.' They definitely weren't lying. There were a lot of stereotyped hipsters as well as other weird people," McComb said.

Hill turned his people-watching, which he calls "awesome," into a game.

"My friend and I went around counting the number of ironic versus sincere mustaches," Hill said. "The final count was 85 to 2."

As an experienced concert-goer, McComb gave advice for those hoping to attend Lollapalooza in the future.

"I'd recommend getting to the stage early and wearing clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Be prepared for the elements because anything can happen," McComb said.

They all agree that there's something special about being able to see a favorite band live as opposed to simply listening to a recording.

"I was able to see Ariel Pink, a bedroom recording artist I've been listening to for years. He's an eccentric guy and walked off the stage partway through," Hill said.

While Dvorak hasn't been to a great number of concerts, he thinks it is fun to see his favorite bands in person.

"Some bands really love what they do and really get into it. They make it a cool experience, and I like seeing bands live to feel that energy."

Twilight star visits local mall

Benefit event help cancer charity funds

BY ELIZABETH HUMENSKY
Writer

Ten years ago, the word 'vampire' would have most likely brought to mind Dracula or The Count from "Sesame Street". However, six years ago, the urban definition of 'vampire' changed dramatically when the first Twilight novel was published.

Several years after the first book was published, Twilight landed a movie deal and became a full-length motion picture. Despite the many mixed reactions to the first film of the Twilight movie series, Summit Entertainment pressed forward to create four more movies, splitting the last book into two parts.

On Saturday, August 27th, Peter Facinelli, the actor who plays Twilight's Dr. Carlisle Cullen, came to Jefferson Pointe to sign autographs and to take pictures with fans. He charged $20 for an autograph and $45 for a picture with himself, donating a portion of the profits to Alex's Lemonade Stand, an organization helping children with cancer. Only a couple hundred fans came to meet the celebrity, braving the blazing heat and slow-moving lines.

Although some find the books to be more appealing than the movies, that did not stop the small but excited crowd from cheering when Facinelli stepped off the shaded platform set up for his arrival (perhaps to hide his sparkly vampire skin?) to give a fan a hug, or when he took the microphone from the announcer to make sure it was still working.

Unfortunately, his schedule was too packed to leave time for an interview without a sizable donation to Alex's Lemonade Stand, but everyone seemed to soak up his smiles and the occasional hug with an elderly Twilight fan.

To help celebrate the vampire doctor's appearance in Fort Wayne, the Red Cross set up a blood drive in the Jefferson Pointe parking lot. The Nut House sold "Bloody Ice Tea" and "Moon Cookies" to correspond with the event. Even a local radio station, Majic 95.1, showed up to help sponsor the celebrity's visit and to give out a free meet-and-greet to one lucky winner of the contest they held several days prior to Facinelli's arrival.

Even with all the publicity Facinelli's visit has brought forth, one has to wonder why more Twilight fans did not show up. Was it because of the heat, the prices of autographs and the pictures, or was it because the once popular book and movie series has lost its luster?

"There's definitely a lot less hype then there was when the books were gaining recognition, but I can still count on there being a fair amount of [female fans] whenever the newest movie in the series comes out," Chloe Smith-Guitard (11) said.

The next movie, 'Breaking Dawn- Part One' comes out this November and is sure to bring in money, at least from those who are fans of the series. According to Mr. Hill, a teacher from the English department, the series is like "a cross between 'Grease' and 'Salem's Lot.'"

Although the Twilight series has gained some die-hard fans, that does not necessarily mean that they like both the movies and the books.

"I like the books better because they're more descriptive, and the movies kind of cut out details," Jessica Comer (10) said.

The next movie to come out with Peter Facinelli is none other than the first part of the two-part 'Breaking Dawn' movie. Fans are already gearing up in excitement to watch (spoiler alert: Bella and Edward tie the knot in history's first vampire-human wedding.)

Even with the variety of Twilight fans and of non-fans, the series "brings people together," Hill said. "My only concern is it might be too easy for some people to get stuck in the genre and to want to recreate the experience every time."

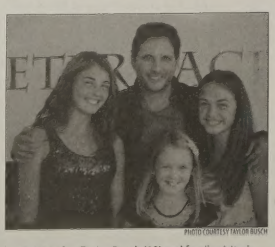


PHOTO COURTESY TAYLOR BUSCH

Twilight fan, Taylor Busch (10) and family visited Jefferson Pointe to see the actor Peter Facinelli.

Students recall freshman year fears

Rumors of seniors 'initiating' new students

WILLIAM NGO
Writer

On August 15, the dreaded first day of school, approximately 570 students made the transition from rulers of middle school to high school freshmen. Horror stories of being tormented by upperclassmen and of being on the receiving end of cruel pranks frightened the freshmen.

With the elevated expectancy of academic success, high school unexpectedly becomes a social nightmare for freshmen. The length from class to class can be described as a grueling trip for some. Uncertainty appears to peak at the start of a new school year due to new peers and new routes to class.

Recalling her freshmen year, Karly Bailey (10) said, "I was afraid to get lost or get in the way of the upper classmen and [that] they would yell at me."

Unfamiliar settings, such as the bustling cafeteria, can be intimidating at first glance. With all grade levels present, lunch time can emphasize class status. "Seniors [would not] give up their table to a group of freshmen," Alicia Cuellar (10) said. "Everyone ends up having their designated place in the cafeteria."

While not all upperclassmen participate in intimidating freshmen, ninth graders can still be targeted for "Freshmen Friday". A valid reason for fear, Freshmen Friday is intended to be a day when juniors and seniors "welcome" ninth-graders with pranks such as pushing them into lockers or into trashcans.

"I think upperclassmen feel entitled to intimidate," Mrs. Campbell, biology teacher, said.

Andrea Leclerc (9) and Corey Kulmala (9) are both examples of freshmen who were initiated into high school by being duct-taped on Freshmen Friday. While this may not sound pleasurable to most, the two students said the experience was "fun."

"My upperclassmen friends told me nobody really cares about pranks," Leclerc said. "They just do them because they're immature or because they were picked on as freshmen."

However, a portion of upperclassmen said they feel that incoming freshmen need to understand seniority. "They have [the] mindset that they're in eighth grade. They still think they run the school," Ryan O'Leary (12) said.

A social- or class-level hierarchy may not be etched in stone, but it is presumably understood. Newly arriving freshmen are not only expected to adapt to academic changes, but are also required to adjust to being looked down upon.

"All of us need to respect each other," Cuellar said, "but freshmen need to remember that they aren't in a place to call the shots anymore."

Although the age difference can seem like a barrier, some freshmen do not fear the new environment or the possibility of being harassed. Many students said they have heard rumors, but concluded that they are not factual. High school is not always what the media portrays it to be–a bullying hotspot or social pyramid.

Even though a new freshmen and a senior class enter the school each year, the cycle of casting out underclassmen continues. Current and past seniors can relate to ninth-graders because they once began high school. The so-called "inferior" freshmen will one day become the seniors that once instilled fear in them.

As the current freshmen class tackles their first year of high school, they will grow closer to ruling the school as they mature and adapt to their surroundings. Freshmen should have no sound apprehension about entering high school.

"I think there's a lot more to be excited about than nervous," Matt Bower (9) said.

FACT OR FICTION

Rumors of being shoved into lockers, having backpacks stolen, and being thrown into trashcans haunt new freshman. Freshman Friday, just a myth or a terrifying reality? At most schools the rumor of Freshman Friday is the prank itself. Upperclassmen start the myth in order to terrify freshmen into knowing their place on the totem pole. Therefore, the real prank is only the fear inducing rumor.

Ingrid Herriot joins security staff this year

Replacing Officer Tinkel, looking forward to acting as the new school resource officer

A new face has been added to the faculty this year in the form of Officer Ingrid Herriott, who will be replacing Officer Tinkle as the new school resource officer. Here's what she had to say about her new position:

Spartana: What is your official title here at the school?

Ingrid Herriott: My official title is the school resource officer.

Spartana: What all does your job description entail?

Herriott: My basic responsibility is caring for school safety. I make sure no one is bringing any weapons to school and that no one is coming into the school who doesn't belong here. I am also in charge of security at school functions. Other than that, my other responsibility is interviewing kids who get into trouble, whether it is just at school or even criminally.

Spartana: Did you hold another position before coming to work here?

Herriott: Well, I have been assigned as a sworn officer for two years. Before coming to Homested I worked as a 911 dispatch supervisor.

Spartana: What kind of training did you have to go through in order to become a sworn officer?

Herriott: I have my bachelor's degree from Indiana University. After I got my degree I attended police training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. This police training was a sixteen week program somewhat similar to the military's basic training.

Spartana: Did Officer Tinkle offer you any advice before you replaced him?

Herriott: Not really, other than that you guys come up with some pretty good stuff! We both know high school students are clever when it comes to breaking rules. But other than that he told me this was a really good group of students and faculty members and that I should have a good experience here.

Spartana: What do you think is the most major problem facing Homestead High School?

Herriott: Well, it is still a little early for me to be making that judgment call, but I would probably have to say drugs in the school.

Spartana: Do you have any specific goals outlined for your time as the school resource officer?

Herriott: Yes. I would say my primary focus will be on teaching students the importance of good decision-making and how their decisions today will impact them in the future. The last couple of weeks I have had really good experiences coming in to talk to advisory and other class groups and I hope to go on creating these positive relationships with students. Also, although my office is based here at Homestead I am in charge of safety at all Southwest Allen County Schools. My goals include getting out to the other schools as much as possible because I was told that is something that didn't really happen in the past. In general, I would really like to work hard to form positive relationships with the students and staff at all Southwest schools. I want students to view me as a resource to them, not as an enemy or someone to avoid.

Spartana: What do you like to do in your spare time?

Herriott: I have a seven year old child, so I don't have too much free time! But when I do, I enjoy running and weightlifting.

Spartana: How has your experience been here so far?

Herriott: Great! Everyone has been really welcoming of me. There is a really nice group of students and staff here.

Spartana: Anything you would like to say to Homestead students?

Herriott: I would like students to know that they are my top priority. I'm busy, but I am always accessible. If a student really needs to see me, I will shuffle everything else around to make sure they are my priority. Students should feel free to talk to me anytime about any concerns they have at school or at home.

Harriot plans on expanding her job responsibilities to include working with students about learning how to make good decisions, in addition to her duties regarding school security.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Positivity as contagious as negativity, necessity to survive high school

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Co-Life Editor

Since my first day as an enthusiastic kindergardener, the first day of school has been a big deal to me. I compared schedules with all my friends. I eagerly put together dress code appropriate outfits. I looked forward to going to Office Depot to buy school supplies.

On the first day of my junior year, however, I didn't wake up with that optimistic feeling that this was going to be a great year. My feeling was more that I'd rather go back to sleep, preferably through my entire junior and senior years.

This general lack of enthusiasm for the next two years led me to create an inspirational list of goals. Yes, that's right. Unlike the majority of the student population, I actually took a tip from Advisory and made a list that was not composed sarcastically.

I guess the word list is a bit of a stretch, considering it only contains one goal. It doesn't concern college or grades; it's more about my outlook on life. An attitude adjustment, if you will. I decided to be more positive.

This is not the first time I've resolved to stop complaining. There have been several occasions where I endeavored to stop my negativity, all of which ended up about the same. I announced my plan. My friends laughed at me and occasionally put down bets on how long I'd last. (Way to be supportive, guys.) I slipped up five to ten minutes later. And that was the end of that.

Part of the problem is that Homestead isn't exactly the most positive environment. No matter what, high school students can always find something to complain about. To name a few: Advisory, D lunch, the new brand of chocolate milk, summer homework, regular homework, the dress code, girls who don't follow the dress code, PDA, people who complain about PDA, mornings and life.

True, it's usually easier to find something to whine about than to praise. And I'm definitely guilty of all of the above. However, with my new-founded goal, I've made a great effort not to hate them. The new milk really isn't that bad. School lunches? At least we're not starving in Africa. If you want to make out in the hallways, go ahead. It's really not any of my business. Advisory may be a waste of time, but at least we're not in class.

See how fun positivity can be? I should make inspirational videos.

Another problem with complaining is that it's a disease; once one person's caught it, they spread it around like a germ picked up on the playground. Here's what happens:

You're sitting in your seating chart-assigned desk before class starts, next to a kid you don't really know. There's an awkward moment of silence. Then he says, "I really hate reading. You know?"

Actually, you don't know. But in order to relate to this kid and make a friend, you say, "Oh, yeah. I totally hate reading. There are just so many words."

Glad that he's made a connection and is no longer friendless and alone, he continues to complain about reading. And so do you.

Maybe it doesn't happen like that every time, but I'm sure it's happened before. In high school, complaining is right up there with Tom's and skinny jeans and everything else that people do to fit in at Happy High.

Of course, it's a lot harder for me to look at the glass half full when it's 7:30 in the morning and I'm not in bed. But positivity can be just as contagious as negativity, and it'll be a lot easier to get through high school without the mindset that everything about it is horrible.

So initiate a positive conversation, and ignore the unattractive dress code violator. We're all stuck here for at least another year, and we might as well get through it with a smile, even if it's fake.

Where in the World?

Students travel abroad over the summer

BY ALISON MANSFIELD
Co-Life Editor

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAHAND EMAMIAN

This summer, several students ventured to foreign destinations, seeking the opportunity to immerse themselves in world cultures. Whether a school trip, language immersion program, vacation, or religious pilgrimage brought them to their exotic destinations, these students gained a unique insight into a land and way of life very unlike their own.

One group of sixteen students travelling with Mr. Clough had the opportunity to spend two weeks in England and Scotland. While travelling, this group of mostly seniors visited destinations such as York, Skipton, Oban, Edinburgh, Hawkshead, Settle, Glasgow, and Durham.

Paralleling Mr. Clough's Honors English curriculum, this trip afforded students the opportunity to make connections to English literature.

"My favorite part was visiting the homes of famous authors and seeing the ruins of ancient buildings," Becca Brown (12) said.

Aside from these academic connections, the scholars also enjoyed the beautiful scenery the craggy hills of the British Isles had to offer.

"What was truly amazing was the hike I went on with Brady Gerber to the top of a giant hill which was used as a lookout," Peter Bowman (12) said. "I saw miles of the Scotland Highlands in all directions."

Another group of Europe-bound students spent ten days exploring Belgium, Switzerland and France, led by Madame Spiedel and Madame Underwood.

Scholars traveled to destinations such as Bruges, Paris, Amiens, Versailles, Lousanne, and Geneva where they saw several popular attractions including the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Palace of Versailles, the Louvre, Notre Dame, and Sacre Coeur.

Besides the opportunity to practice their French, students enjoyed the variety of cuisine France had to offer.

"The food was a little different, but there were the usual options of Greek, Italian, American, etc. Of course, being in France and all, I did try escargots. I was expecting them to be disgusting and slimy but they were actually delicious." Courtney Winters (12) said. "And the breakfasts were awesome! Fresh bread, and a good variety too!"

Traveling with a group of twenty-eight other Indiana students, Sahand Emamian (12) also travelled to France where he spent six and a half weeks in St. Brieuc practicing the language.

In order to fully surround himself with French language and culture, Emamian stayed with a host family who didn't speak any English.

"They became like real parents to me, and I learned a lot of the French culture and language from them!" Emamian said.

Lucy Lundergan (12) also travelled abroad this summer to increase her proficiency in a foreign language. Lundergan spent six and a half weeks in Spain with thirty-three other Indiana students travelling under the IU Honors Program.

Although she stayed in Oviedo most of the time, Lundergan also travelled to Gijon, Santiago de Compestela, and Madrid.

"I really loved Santiago de Compestela because it is where "the Camino" ends (a long hike through Spain), and there were a lot of hikers ending their journeys," Lundergan said.

While she had the opportunity to assimilate to Spanish culture during her extended stay, she did remark that she still had some comedic touristy moments.

"My most touristy moment might have been when we were doing a scavenger hunt in the city,(that was already touristy enough),and we went into McDonald's and some guys asked us if we were from England or America." Lundergan said. "When we said America, one of the guys pointed to someone in our group and said "Snooki! Jersey Shore!" and started fist pumping."

Colin Walsh (12) also travelled abroad this summer to participate in World Youth Day with the Catholic Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Traveling with 120 others from the area, Walsh had the opportunity to go to Lourdes, France and Loyola, Burgos, and Madrid, Spain.

"I really enjoyed Lourdes in its entirety, especially visiting the Basilica, the Grotto, where St. Bernadette saw the Virgin Mary during the eighteen apparitions, and being able to drink the holy water there and wash my face in it," Walsh said. "Another favorite part was being ten feet away from the Pope as he processed into Madrid surrounded by three million other Catholics."

Although these student explorers ventured to differing destinations with varied purposes in mind, all gained a new perspective through their travels.

"I went to Spain because it sounded like a lot of fun and a great opportunity!" Lundergan said. "I feel so lucky that I got to have this experience!"

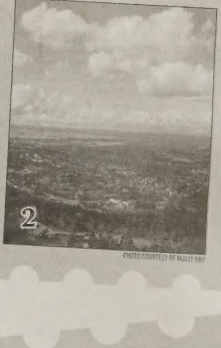


PHOTO COURTESY OF MOLLY RAY

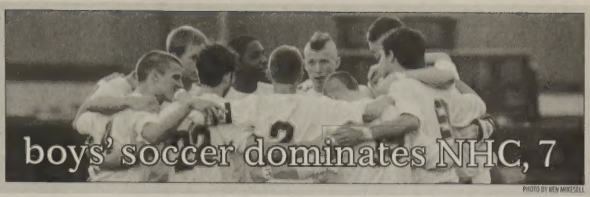
PHOTO COURTESY OF BECCA BROWN

PHOTO BY TORI BARNARD

PHOTO COURTESY OF BECCA BROWN

1. Sahand Emamian (12) enjoying a traditional French bagette in France. 2. Molly Ray (11) visited Oslo, Norway with her family. 3. Becca Brown (12) posing in a telephone booth while traveling in England. 4. Mr. Clough's Honors American Lit. students during their trip to England and Scotland. 5. A canal running through Bruges, Belgium. 6. The Palace of Versailles in France.

PHOTO BY TORI BARNARD



boys' soccer dominates NHC, 7

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Girls' soccer team defeats Canterbury in shut-out win

After suffering two losses, team proves ability with commanding victory over Cavaliers

By Corey Davis
Writer

The blackout of girls throughout the hallways marked the beginning of the new season of girls' soccer. Following crucial losses to the roster from last year's season, this year's team will really have to step it up in order to be successful throughout the season.

Kicking off the season with the Snider invitational against both Noblesville and Leo, the Spartans came up short in both games, losing 2-1 and 2-0. Hoping to come up with a rebound win, they took on the East Noble Knights at East Noble. The girls came out hard, prepared to make up for what they lacked in the season opener.

"This season, I know I could say we all want to win, but most of all I think right now we need to focus on becoming more of a 'team' and play as a team which will take us far." Ari Nelson (11) said. "I have no doubt that we can go far if we put in all our effort day after day."

The following game, against Canterbury High school, would truly test the ability of the team. The rivalry between the teams creates a palpable air of intensity on the field. Each attempts to execute at its greatest level, and the athletes came ready to compete.

The Spartans came onto the field knowing what they had to do and had nothing else on their mind other than the will to win, defeating the Cavaliers 3-0.

The victory was propelled by the work of Kelsey Wendlant (11), who scored two of the Spartans three goals. In addition, Sara Green (12) scored a long-distance shot as the clock was winding down.

The game showed the team that the early losses may have the result of early season mishaps; however, the team is currently prepared to take on difficult competition. The team lost graduating seniors last year, but new additions to the team, like Allison Link (10), are performing exceptionally well.

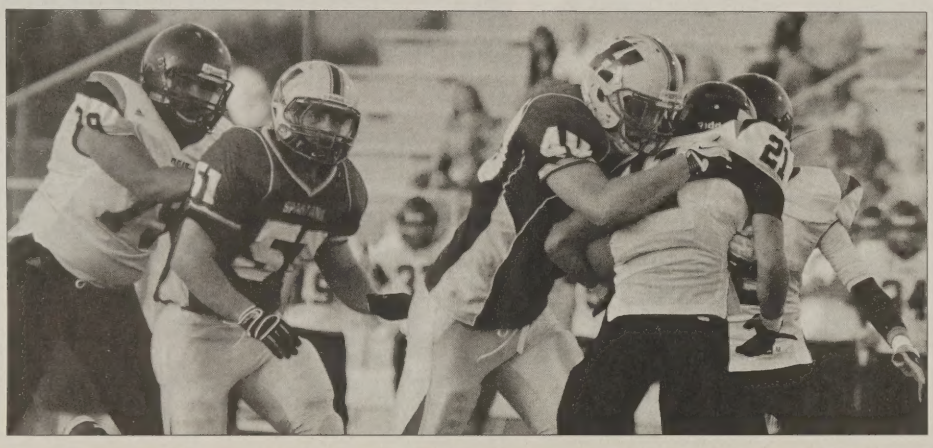
The team is now gaining momentum on an exciting season that awaits them. The team hopes to achieve the best possible regular season record, and to excel in the postseason.

To accomplish these goals, the team will use its sheer athleticism and aggressive tactics to defeat opponents. In addition, the team progressing throughout the season, and improvements will be made continuously.

If they maintain their drive to succeed and the talent to do so, the girls' soccer team will be successful this season.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Emily Bly (11) protects the ball from Canterbury's defense during the Spartan's game against the Cavaliers.



OBLITERATE

Explosive offense propels football team to defeat Huntington North, Warsaw

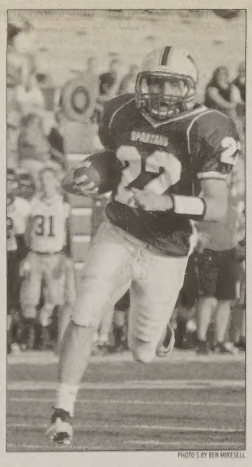


PHOTO S BY BEN MIKESELL

From top: Rob Weigand (12) and Taylor Beam (12) block against Warsaw's drive downfield. Top Left: Jake Weber (12) sprints down field toward a touchdown.

By Jacob Cook
Writer

Following two big wins, the members of the football team could not be more excited about where this season is taking them. Recognized statewide as an offensive power, the team is still perfecting its game plan going into its third week against East Noble.

With victories over Huntington North and Warsaw already in the bag, the team is looking to come up big this year.

An incredible second half against Huntington North secured the team's victory with a final score of 57-43. Leading the way for the team was senior quarterback Zach Terrell, who threw for 203 yards and completed 14 of the 18 passes.

Terrell also rushed for 44 yards on six attempts. On the receiving end, Jake Weber (12) and Seth Coate (11) dominated the field and combined for two touchdowns and almost 150 yards. Coate began as a starting receiver this year.

"We have an awesome receiving core, and I try my best to do my part because I know everyone else around me will be doing theirs," Coate said.

The offense has been praised many times as one of the best in the state, with strong offensive options on the ground and in the air

"I believe our huge offensive play is led by both running and passing equally because either way we are gaining yards efficiently," Coate said.

The offense dominated Warsaw's defense in week two to garner a 51-7 victory. Coate believes this is a result of extra work put in by the offensive core.

"Each week the receivers and running backs stay after practice and work on running routes and timing," Coate said. "As a powerful offense, we have no reason to change anything because we are gaining yards, getting first downs and, most of all, scoring big points."

After week one, the defense was revealed to be the team's weakest unit. Allowing 43 points, the squad was disappointed with its overall performance. However, week two was a major turnaround as the squad held Warsaw to seven points and less than 180 yards of total offense.

Defensive captain Taylor Beam believes the team didn't change its game plan as much as it sharpened its focus.

"We gave up 43 against Huntington North, but I'm blessed to play with guys who listen and are coachable," Beam said. "We really stepped up for Warsaw and played hard. It was all about knowing assignments and, especially on passing plays, sticking to your guy."

Beam has taken his leadership role very seriously and makes sure that playing good football comes first.

"It's easy to fix mistakes with these guys, and they want to improve every week," Beam said. "I do my best to motivate on the field every week."

Long term, the players are pushing for the school's first sectional title in 11 years.

With that, they are working towards sole ownership of an NHC Title and an undefeated regular season.

"If we want to be the best, we have to aim high and know what we want to do now," Coate said. "If we can nail our game plan and goals now, there's no telling what we can do at the end of the year."

The team is now setting its eyes on NHC conference opponent East Noble. Last night, East Noble proved its offensive prowess by rolling over Northridge 41-13; however, the team is sticking to the same game plan it faced Warsaw with and is confident it will bring them another victory.

> "If we can nail our game plan and goals now, there's no telling what we can do at the end of the year."
>
> **SETH COATE (11)**
> *Wide Receiver*

As the Spartans continue to rack up wins, their reputation has spread state-wide as a beckoning force that will take their opponent's team for all they're worth.

"With our defense focused now, it's going to be hard to stop us," Beam said. "We'll get the offense the ball so they can take care of business like they always do."

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY: SUCCEEDS AT INVITATIONAL

Boy's cross country team starts strong with top runners placing at inviational

The boys' cross country team is one of Indiana's preseason picks at number four, and is starting off the season with very high expectations. The team has a great chance to make it all the way to the state championships.

The boys got off to a good start by placing three runners in the top five, and seven runners in the top twelve at the Dekalb invitational. The runners were led by Max Silcox (11) and Blake Harris (11) in second and third place, respectively.

The boys have set the bar high, trying to make up for the less than satisfactory finish to last year's season.

"Last year, our season ended with a rough 7th place at semi state, just out of reach of state. It was one of the most disappointing and humbling experiences I've ever had," Silcox said.

▶▶7

Place the team finished at semi-state last year, which prevented the team from advancing to state.

The team is also welcomes returning varsity runners, including: Silcox, Harris, Kipp Force (12), and Ben Haberly (11).

This year, the leadership of experienced runners has helped the team, which has experienced an influx of younger runners, stay focused and develop as a unit.

"The team gets along great and we all treat each other with the same respect," Silcox said. "Being an upperclassman isn't as different as I thought it would be. I just have to watch my actions much more carefully so [the underclassmen] can act the same and be better teammates."

The boys focus on establishing a team-oriented atmosphere, which emulates a close-knit family.

"My favorite part about cross country [is] that the team is really great and I love all the people," Jake Peters (11) said.

These relationships help the athletes push one another to become better. Evidently, the team thrives off the satisfaction of pushing its limits

"We have a really great team this year and expect to make it to state," Peters said.

--Allie Overlander

GIRL'S CROSS COUNTRY: SENIOR WINS FIRST PLACE

Halle Shine (12) wins first invitational of season; team holds experienced runners

The girls' cross country team is starting out this year with high hopes. The team has hit the ground running, starting off the season with very impressive displays of ability.

Thus far, the team has had two meets. The girls opened with a meet against Dekalb, and participated in the Huntington North invitational, in which Halle Shine (12) placed first.

"Things are looking really good. Obviously the goal is always to make it to state, and we'll be close this year; [it] just depends on our semi-state performance," Lauren Purlee (12) said.

> "We have a better chance of making it to state this year. We have a young team, but it is strong."
>
> **HALLE SHINE (12)**
> *Varsity Runner*

The team will return experienced runners from previous years. In addition to Shine and Purlee, the team will be welcoming Haley Havert (12), Mariah Jordan (11), Kylie Burton (11), Shannon Didier (10) and other promising runners back for another year.

"We have a better chance of making it to state this year. We have a young team, but it is strong," Shine said.

Despite last season's bitter ending, the team will be working hard to create a great record this year.

"The season ended badly for me last year because I was injured. The team planned on doing better, but still did really well," Shine said.

As the season continues, the team is focusing on developing good relationships, improving athletic ability, and growing as a single unit. While the team may boast great talent, having fun and enjoying each other is one of the team's goals for the season.

"I'm really looking forward to spending more time with the team and seeing everyone improve their times as the season progresses," Purlee said.

--Allie Overlander

Experience in soccer parallels transition to new responsibility

Anticipating the soccer game against Canterbury, as a player, I noticed my palms had become sweaty. My heart-rate had nearly doubled, and my mind was virtually numb. I attempted to slow my breathing and relax, but nothing kept my nerves in check. I looked at the clock and cringed at the time displayed. It was 2 o'clock in the afternoon. There were seven hours left until gametime.

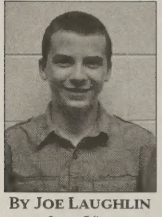
The Canterbury and Homestead match-up has always been, and always will be, an exciting, intense game. During the game last year, I found myself intimidated by the air of electricity of the field from my comforting spot on the bench; unfortunately, that is where I remained for the entire game.

This year, however, I had assumed a starting spot on the roster. I actually had an impact on the outcome of the game. This feeling of immense responsibility did not to much to mitigate my nerves either.

After hardly surviving the wait for the game, I found myself on the field, looking at the crowd that had come to watch the game. Despite the dismal weather, the crowd that had formalized defied the basic laws of high school soccer. Basically, there was almost as many people in the stands as the home section of a Homestead football game.

With respect to their four-year dedication, the seniors were allowed automatic positions in the starting line up. Therefore, I began the game on an old friend, the bench.

THE AVERAGE JOE



BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Sports Editor

When the time came for me to sub in, I found myself positioned at the side of the field, and I could hardly stand the pressure. I considered leaving the field at that moment, purchasing a gourmet hot dog from the concessions stand, and observing from the welcoming bleachers on the other side of the field. After Anthony Jimenez (10) scored the first goal of the game, it was my turn to step on the field.

From the first time I touched the ball, all my nerves had disappeared, and I grew to love the intensity of the game. Against Canterbury, I was able to experience the competition of my first truly crucial game, and I worked harder than I ever had before.

For two halves of the game, my whole team worked as hard as we could. The plays held together to execute to the best of our ability, and for most of the part, we were complacent with our play. It was satisfying to work as hard as you could for the entire time that you were on the field.

After the clock ran out, our team left the field as gladiators. We were brutal, relentless warriors who had given all of their efforts to the cause of the battle. Oh, and we may have lost 5-1.

At this time, I began to make connections between my role on the soccer team and my new position on the Spartana staff. I am now the Sports Editor of the newspaper, though I spent last year as a sports writer. As a writer, I was allowed to experience briefly how the newspaper functioned; similarly, I watched the game from the bench last year, although this year I was playing on the field.

Assuming the role of Sports Editor, I have an even greater responsibility to the readers, which I will do my absolute best to fulfill. In parallel, I had a responsibility to my teammates during this game, which I would like to believe I fulfilled.

I was nervous prior to the soccer game, and I have experienced some nerves regarding this year on staff. Although I am not sweaty on my couch and unable to focus on any task, I am anxious to release the first issue.

I hope my experience with newspaper will ensue similarly to the soccer game, with my anxiety subsiding with each issue, as the staff gains confidence and experience.

However, throughout the year, the experience will not always be perfect. I will make some mistakes. I didn't score a goal every time I touched the soccer ball, and my teammates were unable to as well. Sometimes the production may not turn out as we desire; I hope that like the soccer game, the work we put in will be satisfying, even if we come out four goals below our opponent.

Anxiety aside, the first issue has now been distributed and the newspaper schedule will proceed. It's time for me to lace up my cleats, step confidently onto the field, and do the best that I can with the time that I have.

PHOTOS BY BEN MARSELL

Boys' soccer team begins season 4-1, loses to rival Canterbury

BY TYLER KOTESKY
Writer

Beginning the season with spectacular success, the boys' soccer team is now 4-1 in its quest to win the NHC title and become one of the most feared teams in Northeast Indiana. After a devastating loss to Canterbury, the team is set to rebound and continue with its successful season.

In its first game of the season, the team defeated Vicksburg, a team from Michigan, 5-0. The next week it smashed New Haven 7-0 in a blowout victory and returned the next day to beat Northrop 5-1. Continuing an undefeated season, the team was victorious in a match against East Noble with a score of 4-3. "We've started off [well] because we are staying focused and taking one game at a time," Chris Anderson (11) said.

Anderson has become one of the leaders on the team, but the senior leadership on the team has come from Captain Frankie Zirille (12).

"Our goal for this season is to make it back to state. I think the team has what it takes this year to do just that," Zirille said.

With high expectations this year, it is likely that the team can make a long run in the postseason considering its success so far.

The most surprising performance has come from a younger player, Anthony Jimenez (10). Jimenez has scored 10 goals during this season, including 4 in the game against New Haven.

"No one player can be attributed with our success. We truly play as a team," Zirille said.

In the loss against Canterbury, Jimenez scored a spectacular goal in the first half; however, Canterbury responded with several goals leading to a 5-1 victory for the Cavaliers. Though it was a disappointment for them, the Spartans learned from the loss which can help them in future games.

"Right now I think the only thing we need to improve on is staying focused and not letting up after we score a few goals on teams. We need to pound them and not let them back into the game ever," Zirille said.

One thing that has hurt the team is injuries to veteran players. The starting goalie, Austin Williams (12), has been injured, as well as Rashaan Stephens (11) who is tending to an ankle injury received in the first game of the season against Vicksburg.

"Personally, I think we could make a nice run at a state title if we get all of our starters back from injuries," Anderson said.

Just two years ago, the boys' varsity team made it to the state championship before losing in the final. Last year, the team lost to Carroll in the regional tournament, but this year, it is poised for revenge against its NHC rival.

"The team goal is usually the same for each year: prove everyone wrong by winning the NHC again, as well as getting back to state, and winning it this time. It all leads down to the mentality of each and every one of our guys on the team. Staying focused and taking one game at a time is absolutely necessary if we want to go anywhere," Anderson said.

Despite the discouraging loss against Canterbury, the team is still optimistic about its chances in the postseason. It has experienced success already, and it will be interesting to see how far these devoted players will go.

"[We can't] let [bad] teams play with us. [We] just [have to] put them out early," Jimenez said.

This is exactly what they did to Vicksburg and New Haven, and they are hoping they can do the same to other teams. There is a long time until they play their toughest competition, Carroll, on September 19th. However, until then, the boys will try to continue their nearly undefeated season against other teams to prepare them for the competition they will face later on in the season.

1. Jake Welbaum (12) exits the field in disappointment. 2. Jack Hagedorn (11) controls a ball. 3. Anthony Jimenez (10) aggressively attacks Canterbury's defense. 4. Nick Anderson (9) looks for a pass. From lower left: Nancy Teagarden accepts certificate. From lower right: boys' soccer team wears tape on wrists in honor of Teagarden.

ALL FOR ONE, WHO WAS FOR ALL: REMEMBERING PAT TEAGARDEN

Soccer field renamed in honor of beloved Pat Teagarden

PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

During the boys' and girls' varsity soccer games against Canterbury High School on Aug. 27, an honoring and remembrance of Pat Teagarden, who passed away this spring, took place. Teagarden gave much to the game of soccer as a coach and a player; moreover, he was a benevolent member of the community. Teagarden was extremely successful as a coach for 23 years, and he also helped organize different soccer leagues around the city. In between the two games, the soccer field was renamed in honor of Teagarden, and the field is now named Pat Teagarden Field. Nancy Teagarden, his wife, was present to accept a certificate that declared the renaming of the field official. As Assistant Superintendent Patrick Downs presented Teagarden with the certificate, a list of Teagarden's accolades was read to the crowd. His dedication to the game of soccer and to the community awed all who were at the game. Moreover, the soccer players of the boys' and girls' teams remembered Teagarden by wearing tape around their wrists with the his initials written on the tape.

> "It was very nice to see that an amazing man receive sincere recognition for all of his hard work. The field dedication and overall appreciation for the coach was deeply needed."
> JACK HAGEDORN
> *Soccer Player*

Volleyball team experiences difficulty at beginning of season

Team loses first three games of season, shows promise with dominant win over Wayne

BY HAIDEN STEINGASS
Writer

The varsity volleyball team is fresh into its season having played four games, one of which resulted in a victory. The team is currently determined to withhold its dominant reputation and obtain a second-consecutive sectional win.

In the past few weeks, the team has taken on Wayne, North Side, Concordia and Bishop Luers, but despite its effort, the only win garnered was against Wayne. Playing a total of five games, the girls defeated Wayne three times with the impressive scores of 25-7, 25-9, and 25-11. Throughout the game, Julia Sciole (12) had a total of five aces, Jenny Redden (10) and Jordan Lentz (9) had two blocks each, Katie Miller (10) delivered 15 assists, and Cassie Libbing (11) added eight kills. Sara Patterson (12), who had seven digs, assumed a leadership position and kept the team focused.

As a result of everyone's efforts, the team came together, used its drive, willpower and determined attitude to get a nice lead in the game, and even allowed some of the freshmen a chance to play as a varsity team member.

"Thinking of the most recent game against Wayne this past week, serving aggressiveness was the key. We had great focus, which allowed us to really defeat the Generals," Miller said.

Despite a tough match and an eventual loss, the team was able to define its strengths and weaknesses in its match against Concordia, which has the high rank of fifth in the state.

"The game against Concordia got a lot of hype," Redden said. "We started off discouraged because their team is ranked so [highly], but we pushed through and gave it our all anyway."

This year, the team has an abundance of experience, including seven varsity players returning from last year. The team is fortunate to boast four seniors: Kim Bautz, Brianne Porter, Patterson and Sciole. The upperclassmen all share high hopes.

"Being a senior is so much fun, and we're working really hard to make it to state this year," Bautz said.

In addition to the seniors, three juniors, four sophomores, and one freshman are also on the varsity team. Lentz, the first freshman in history to make the varsity team, has been welcomed with open arms.

"Having a freshman on the team didn't make a difference because [coach] Mitchell made us a family from the very beginning," Redden said.

Furthermore, junior varsity and freshman teams have shown signs of ability and determination.

"We have a strong JV team that plays hard," Mitchell said. "Also, the freshman team continues to improve and work hard on the fundamental skills of volleyball."

While the members of the team are working on improving their game, they are also working on developing close relationships with one another.

"Being on the volleyball team is such a privilege, especially with such great girls! I really love spending time with them everyday. We're just like a family," Bautz said.

▶▶4
Number of games played against the Saints.

PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Brianna Porter (12) and Sara Patterson (12) elevate for a block in a game against rival Bishop Dwenger High School.

9•11•2001 [ten years later]

Reflections of infamous day describe event's aftermath

"The hijackings of 9/11 happened because one group of people felt that they were better than another. This has happened a lot in history, and there's no reason for discrimination."
CASSIDY BUETER (11)

"Although I was young, I understood the magnitude of the events known as 9/11."
SETH RAISUNI (10)

"I thought something really bad happened, but I didn't understand it. Planes hit towers, but it didn't register that people had died."
MEGGEN DAVIS (11)

By Lauren Purlee and Priya Parikh
Feature Editor and Copy Editor

The headlines were everywhere within minutes of the tragedy: the news that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Twin Towers had reached almost everyone through the front pages of newspapers, televised newscasts, and word of mouth. The events that transpired on September 11, 2001, had an impact on individuals not only personally affected by the tragedy, but also those observing the incident from an outsider's viewpoint. However, ten years later, the effect of the tragedy has changed to those remembering it.

"I suppose I didn't really understand the gravity of the situation back when I was younger. Nowadays 9/11 is used as a marker in American history," Sahand Emamian (12) said. "People say "Post-9/11" as if the entire philosophy of America changed after that day. And it probably did. That is how my opinion of the situation changed since childhood; I now understand how this ordeal affected America."

Although the effects of 9/11 are evident today, many students attest to the fact that they were far too young to remember the exact occurrences of the day, or to even recognize the significance of it.

"I think I was too young to realize the real impact of the event. I remember my mom showing me a Youtube video of it and watching the flag being lowered," Jiwon Park (11) said. "However, now that I look back, I see the importance of the day. I think it has changed the outlook and behavior of every single American."

Indeed, the 9/11 tragedy has greatly affected the United States, especially through the country's foreign affairs and political debates.

"Basically every political debate is drawn back to the events in 9/11, and because I will be able to vote in the next presidential election, the politicians' views on 9/11's effects on the world may sway my vote," Emamian (12) said.

The aspects of racism and hostility against individuals of Middle Eastern nationalities due to 9/11 are still evident ten years after the incident.

"Today if someone asks me if I'm Muslim or a terrorist, I know it's because of those extremists who decided to fly a plane into the Twin Towers," Jaspreet Kaur (12) said. "Because of 9/11, anyone who looks slightly Middle Eastern has to suffer from racist remarks."

"My parents are still citizens of their home country of Iran, and on their passports it states that they were born there," Emamian said. So whenever I'm entering the country with them, it takes about a half-hour to forty-five minutes to get through customs. However, when I am by myself, it takes probably a total of 30 seconds, mainly because my passport has no indication of my being Iranian, other than my name. "

Increased racism is not the only remnant of 9/11 remembrances nearly a decade later. Even today, strict airport security is still in practice.

"Plane security is so much more extensive now," Emily Kaminski (11) said. "I remember when people who weren't flying were allowed to wait at the gate with you, but now that simply isn't the case anymore."

"Obviously, 9/11 is really still affecting me every day," Hanita Epstien (11) said. "Now in the airports, I really feel the difference. Also, everyone is always looking over their shoulder nowadays for terrorists and people that are causing trouble. So really, 9/11 affects every single person every day. That event did strike fear into people's hearts and affected them mentally, emotionally, and physically."

Although the individuals who carried out the tragedy are mostly viewed in a hostile manner, some students find that they are not to blame.

"I have learned that the people who attacked the buildings and killed thousands of people are just followers and deserve no blame," Katelyn Gutwein (10), said.

The extent to which the tragedy has affected the lives of Americans still remains a debatable topic. Nevertheless, the events of September 11, 2001 have made individuals more cognizant of their identity as an American and their surroundings.

"We should remember that at the end of the day, Americans should be united on the basis of truth and justice," Saurabh Sharma (12) said. "Not on skin, race, or religion based on the results of 9/11.

"We are vulnerable, but we can help to reduce the tragedy," Jeff Livensparger, Social Studies teacher, said. "By understanding our vulnerability, we can prepare to protect ourselves as well as prepare to help the rest of the world.

"We are vulnerable, but we can help to reduce the tragedy. By understanding our vulnerability, we can prepare to protect ourselves as well as prepare to help the rest of world."
JEFF LIVENSPARGER

"That day my husband decided he wanted to join the military to fight for our country. And that has changed our lives forever."
STEPHANIE MERKLING

"Because of 9/11, anyone who looks slightly Middle Eastern has to suffer from racist remarks."
JASPREET KAUR (12)

"Always be prepared for the worst scenario. Better to be prepared than sorry."
STEVE WINEBRENNER

BY THE NUMBERS

2,823 people died in the attack on the Twin Towers

105 people are still classified as missing from the events of the day

291 bodies were discovered intact

1,300 orphans were created by the 9/11 attacks

39 days after the attack, Bush signed the Aviation Security Act that requires checked-in bags to be screened for explosives

230 people died in the attack on the Twin Towers

20 miles offered visible views of the burning towers

125 people inside of the Pentagon killed in crash

26 days after 9/11 the military began bombing Afghanistan

2011 year Bin Laden was killed

21,000,000,000 cost of damages from 9/11

INFORMATION FROM THE OBSERVER

the SPARTANA

NEWS This issue's 'Debunked' addresses the rumors that the Indiana driving law has shifted back to the original date to get license. 2A

OPINION Opinion editor remarks at justice exemplified by the Wabash County YMCA in allowing sex offenders to use facilities. 3A

LIFE The Johnny Appleseed festival brings in many students to volunteer for various activites and to test out life during the time period. 4A

SPORTS Girl's golf team wins NHC conference with all varsity players selected for the first and second teams All-Conference. 6A

FEATURE As Homecoming week wraps up, a comparison is made on how this week has changed in the past 20 years at Homestead. 8A

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Incentives for dress provide minimal help

By Ryan Boylan
Co-Opinion Editor

As turmoil concerning the dress code enforcement continues to mount, teachers and administrators are trying to manage the increasing number of reported violations by instituting an incentive program that favors of students who comply with the long-standing dress code over others.

Beginning this semester, teachers have been encouraged to give out small rewards to students who follow the dress code.

Last year 1000 Wendy's frosty coupons were donated for the purpose of rewarding students that follow school expectations. Teachers have been provided with Wendy's coupons if they would like to reinforce the positive behavior.

"I am a person who prefers to reward positive behavior," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said. "It's so refreshing to catch someone in an act of kindness and doing what they know is right. That is the intention behind the reward."

Administration hopes it will see a decrease in the number of violators because of this system; but because very few classrooms have instituted the policy thus far, little progress has been made and violations are still reported at a much higher rate than in previous years.

> "It's so refreshing to catch someone in an act of kindness and doing what they know is right."
>
> **JENNIFER BAY**
> *Assistant Principal*

Several students seem to resent the dress code policy even more because of the new policy, claiming that it proves to be counterproductive and unjust.

"I do not think that students should be rewarded for [following the dress code] because that is pretty much just calling out the students who do not choose to follow the dress code," Katelynn Scott (11) said.

SEE 'DRESS CODE,' PAGE 2A

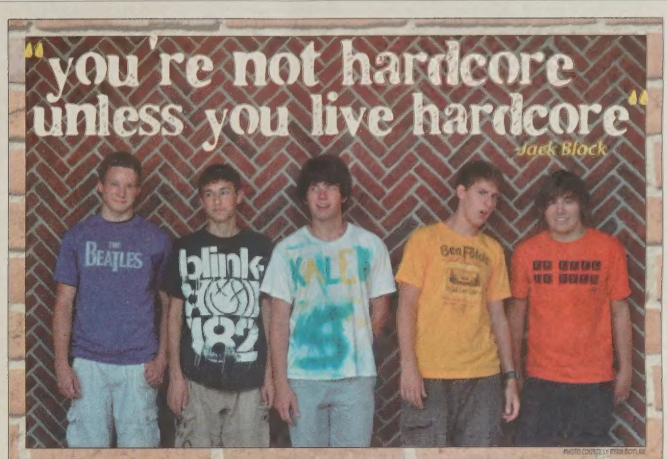

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIBETH AM

Student group wins local Battle of the Bands

By Laura Zeng
Copy Editor

Leaving Rockwell, a student indie rock band, won the Battle of the Bands, a competition for local bands hosted by No Alcohol No Drugs (NAND). All student bands from high schools in the Fort Wayne area were invited to compete, and there was no entry fee. The competition was held on Sunday, September 19 at Freimann's Square downtown.

Leaving Rockwell is comprised of five Homestead students: Adam Breneman (11), Ryan Boylan (11), Will Davis (11), Ben Dvorak (9) and Morgan Gascoyne (12).

Before the Battle of the Bands, members of Leaving Rockwell were optimistic and looking forward to the competition.

"[Battle of the Bands] was a fun and exciting performance," Breneman said.

Battle of the Bands provided high school bands with the opportunity not only to compete with other bands, but the opportunity to get to know other bands.

"[Leaving Rockwell] chose to enter the Battle of the Bands because it's a good chance to earn some publicity around town, and there are never too many shows to play in," Breneman said. "There's a sense of community with a lot of younger local bands, so everybody tried to win but still supported each other."

The band played "Burning

SEE 'ROCKWELL,' PAGE 2A

PHOTOS BY KEN MAESTAS

Top: The band poses for their group picture for a new round of music. Above: Adam Breneman (11) plays the bass at the competition. Right: Ben Dvorak (9) plays the keyboard.

District earns 'A' rating for performance

By Joe Janizek
Co-Editor in Chief

A report to the school board evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the district came back with mostly positive results, despite citing the need for an improvement in communication.

The report, which was presented by Daryl Yost at the meeting on Jun. 21, gave the school a "5 star rating." The school was praised for the sense of safety shared by staff and students.

"Anita Gross has led the way not just here, but in the county, of coordinating the services that the county and district can provide," Assistant Superintendent Phil Downs said.

In addition to the coordination of services, Downs credited the good condition the school is kept in as another reason for the safety.

"By maintaining our facilities so well, we're able to keep students and staff safe," Downs said. "It's not just about keeping bad people away from the school, it's also about keeping accidents away."

Teachers also play a role in the atmosphere of safety at the school.

"If I don't recognize someone I introduce myself, and direct them to go through the front office to enter the school," Underwood said. "I try to follow school rules as closely as possible. Even if they sound silly to some people, there is a good reason to follow them."

While the report was primarily positive, it said that there was *significant room for improvement in* the area of communication.

"[Communication] is a common complaint in just about any organization," Downs said.

There are already plans in place to start improving the communication between administrators and other stakeholders in the school district, according to downs.

"A lot more time and effort are being put in to keeping the website up to date and functional," Downs said.

Students agreed with Downs that additional information online would be a helpful resource.

"I use the website frequently, almost every school night," Kyle O'Malley (12) said. "I would definitely use it more often if it had calendars and deadlines included."

As the website continues to improve, more and more information could be added to aid teachers and students.

"One of the things we want to do is keep minutes of the meetings and the things being discussed, and get those out to teachers," Downs said.

Increased electronic communication, however, may not be the best way to improve communication overall.

"In general, everybody needs to be clear that email is not the best form of communication," Underwood said.

By communicating through email, it is possible that the administration may be overlooking some teachers.

"The administration should give whatever information the can to everybody, instead of a select few and expecting it to be transferred,"

SEE 'SCHOOL BOARD,' PAGE 2A

Transportation alters rules to promote safety of riders

By Sydney Brummett
Writer

A new transportation policy has affected the ways students travel after school.

Students must ride on their assigned bus, to their assigned stop and will not be allowed to ride to or from another student's bus stop. Exceptions will only be made by the Director of Transportation David Rarick. Any requests for a change in transportation must be made by notifying the transportation office in writing at least ten days prior to the change, according to the transportation department.

The main goal of this change in policy is student safety.

"Tracking students is a main factory in safety procedures," Rarick said.

Most people find this new policy to be reasonable because it focuses on keeping students safe; nonetheless, there are students and parents alike who think the policy is too severe.

"I find [the policy] to be bothersome and inflexible," Hannah Anelle (10) said.

Most students do not feel the urge to get off the bus at the wrong stop or to get onto the incorrect bus intentionally; however, some bus drivers disagree.

"Students continuously attempt to exit the bus year after year at the wrong stop," bus driver Larry Ahrendsen said.

This disregard the bus schedule by many students is another reason this new transportation policy was put into place.

Not only is the transportation policy considered too strict by a number of students, but students consider the submission of written requests ten days prior to riding the bus to be a hassle. Students feel that this is too long an amount of time to prepare for an impromptu event. Students would like to be able to make plans spontaneously, but the new transportation policy there is little room for last-minute planning.

"[Requesting a change ten days in advance] is an inconvenience to both parents and students because they have to be so prepared," Anelle said.

A number of bus drivers feel that the new policy will enable students and parents to become more organized and prepared.

"The new policy is positive for planning because the parents either have to drop everything to come pick up the kids at school or

SEE 'TRANSPORTATION,' PAGE 2A

45
buses are used for daily pick-up and drop off at Homestead for the regular bus riders

'Catch phrase' fans work toward official club recognition

By Megan Cater
Writer

A new club, Catchphrase Club, is being introduced this year. The club creators are Catchphrase Club President Lauren Purlee (12) and Vice President Riley McComb (12). The currently informal club is in the process of becoming an official club. Meetings are typically held Wednesday evenings, and the club hopes eventually to start competing against other schools.

Catchphrase Club strikingly contrasts with the majority of clubs currently offered. Most clubs aimed at academics or volunteer work such as Spanish Club or Key Club; however, Catchphrase Club offers students not only the opportunity to be potentially a part of a competitive team, but to learn strategy and problem-solving skills while playing an entertaining game.

Members are excited about the prospect of a club completely different from others offered and are eagerly planning the year for the club.

"It was kind of just a random idea like 'Hey, let's make a club!' So far we've only had one meeting, but we'll figure out schedules, practice the game and just have fun," McComb said.

With about 25 people at the first meeting on Sept. 7, the year's club seems to have a bright future for the committed team. At this first meeting, Catchphrase teams were named, ambassadors for other schools were designated, team schedules were made and a game of Catchphrase was played. Both

SEE 'CATCH PHRASE,' PAGE 2A

Connor Barnes (12), Mr. Panning, and Riley McComb (12) get excited to compete in catch phrase during club time.

PHOTO BY LAUREN PURLEE

BRIEFS

COLLEGE GO WEEK
Some Indiana Colleges, are participating in this event to make applications free if turned in between Sept. 26 and 30. A list of these schools is in Student Services.

SAT TEST TAKERS
October 1st test takers, please note that the test at Homestead HS has been moved to Woodside Middle school. Enter through the front of the building and remember to bring a photo ID.

YEARBOOK PICK-UP
Yearbooks will be distributed in the cafeteria on Friday, September 23 during lunches only.

ROCKWELL CONTINUED FROM 1A

Bridges," "July 16th," "I Hate Fort Wayne" and "Across the Room," all of which are original songs that the band wrote together.

"The Battle of the Bands on Sunday was a great experience," Dvorak said. "We were able to meet a lot of cool people who all shared an interest in music. I enjoyed watching all the other bands play and talking to some of the members afterwards the most."

People who attended the Battle of the Bands and paid for a $5 t-shirt and food ticket determined the winner by popular vote. For winning the competition, Leaving Rockwell won $125 from Sweetwater Sound and some roller skating and bowling passes Other bands that performed included The Horizon's End, Wes Johnson, To The Point, CLM and One Kind.

"Being onstage and playing music was my favorite part, but the camaraderie between the bands and getting to meet new people involved in the local music scene make playing larger bills like the Battle of the Bands much more fun," Breneman said.

While the Battle of the Bands was open to the public, the event was geared to high school students. NAND receives grant money that is intended to be directed towards preventing drug and alcohol use in students in secondary education.

"What we're doing is to show teenagers that you can have a good time without drugs or alcohol," Amy Simmons, NAND school coordinator, said.

This is the second Battle of the Bands hosted by the Allen County NAND. The first was held in August of last year, and about 250 people attended. Simmons said that NAND was hoping for a similar or larger turnout this year.

"The first Battle of the Bands was received pretty well," Simmons said. "However, because it was held in August, schools had a hard time advertising the event to students, which is why we had the event in September this year."

NAND is a collaboration of various groups in the community that work together to help high school students make smart decisions and to prevent alcohol and drug use in students. In addition to organizing the Battle of the Bands, NAND also organizes other events. For instance, NAND encourages students to pledge to be drug and alcohol free during Homecoming as well as other dances.

> "We were able to meet a lot of cool people who all shared an interest in music."
>
> **BEN DVORAK (9)**
> *Keyboard Player*

Many NAND organizations are closely affiliated with Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).

Leaving Rockwell's next performances will be on Friday, September 23 at the Bean Coffeehouse and Saturday, September 24 at the Fort-4Fitness Marathon.

Scan this code to visit the band's Facebook fan page and hear their music samples.

MEET THE BAND

WILL DAVIS (11) -- drums, singer
As an original member of the band, he has been a part since spring 2009 and has written "My Bulgarian Friend," "July 16" and "Across the Room."

MORGAN GASCOYNÉ (12) -- guitar
Joined in the fall of 2010 as a replacement for Ben, who was overscheduled with cross country; but later took up guitar for the band when Ben returned.

BEN DVORAK (9) -- keyboard
Joined in the summer of 2009 after former members left for other interests. He also took a short break from the group to run cross country in 2010 for Woodside.

ADAM BRENEMAN (11) -- bass
An original member known for his arpeggiated riffs, posi jumps, strumming Ryan's guitar as Ryan strums his bass, and viewed as the "Funkiest Bassest Ever."

RYAN BOYLAN (11) -- guitar, singer
Known as "Rockwell" for his British mannerisms, he is an original member and has written the radio hit single "Burning Bridges" and "I Hate Fort Wayne."

PHOTOS BY BEN MIKESELL

TRANSPORTATION CONTINUED FROM 1A

plan ten days prior," Ahrendsen said.

If students need to be picked up from school to go to another student's home, parents can no longer notify transportation by calling the morning of the change. Instead a parent would be forced to pick up the students.

A student's assigned bus number and stop can be found on the schedules which were sent to all students over the summer and were also available at registration.

In the event of school delays, the bus transportation policy still must be followed by parents and students.

This transportation policy, which was set in place August 2011, must be followed by all parents and student in order to ensure the safety of students, according to the Department of Transportation.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: SACS received a grant which would allow drug testing for all student drivers.

Status: False- Contrary to a rumor circulating, currently, SACS has not received a grant that will pay for drug testing for all student drivers, according to Anita Gross, School Social Worker. Furthermore, the district does not receive any grants to pay for random drug testing.

All students who drive to or from school are included in the random drug testing pool along with all students who participate in extracurricular or co-curricular activities. This random drug testing is paid for by the No Alcohol No Drugs (NAND) Task Force.

The only mandatory drug testing that students must participate in occurs when students "exhibit behaviors that lead school authorities to suspect the students are under the influence of alcohol or other drugs," according to the Student/Parent Handbook 2011-2012.

Repercussions for testing positive for drugs or alcohol in a random drug test include: suspension from extracurricular or co-curricular activities and suspension from driving to or from school, according to the Student/Parent Handbook 2011-2012.

This drug policy is the same as it has been in previous years. There are no plans to change this policy, according to Gross.

follow us @The Spartana
for live updates from sporting events

Smart phones can scan this QR-code to be directly linked to The Spartana's Twitter page to join in on following the latest live sports updates and news throughout the district and school.

CORRECTION:

Due to a reporting error, the Spartana incorrectly reported that Halle Shine (12) won and competed in the varsity Huntington North cross country invitational in issue one's sports section story. The Spartana regrets this error.

SCHOOL BOARD CONTINUED FROM 1A

Underwood said. "I feel like I hear more from students sometimes."

The lack of communication is not only a problem in and of itself. Lack of communication has led to lack of understanding, which in turn has caused unnecessary complaints by parents, according to Downs.

"One of the biggest things that is misunderstood is the fact that schools have different accounts funded by different tax dollars," Downs said. "The money can't be moved between these accounts. For example, the capital projects fund can only be used to buy equipment. That's why you see such large class sizes while the school is buying new computers."

The administration hopes to alleviate concerns through the continued improvement of administration.

"There are two totally different sets of money, two different taxes, and you can't mingle the money," Downs said. "That's something that you can't just say in a quick sound bite."

School board members discuss presented ideas and agenda items.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

DRESS CODE CONTINUED FROM 1A

Students also view this form of enforcement as an inconclusive effort that has little promise of creating long-term effects and are even skeptical of positive short-term results.

"Providing incentives for following the dress code seems a bit ridiculous when you think about it," Nathan Brophy (11) said. "I mean, anyone over the age of eight would probably choose their own personal freedom over a piece of candy or a coupon for a free frosty. And besides, it's not like those coupons can last forever. Even if they do work at convincing students to follow the dress code, when the coupons run out we're still going to have the exact same problem."

However, teachers and faculty members generally support the dress code and the measures taken to enforce it, in part because of the preparation for life after high school the dress code provides for students.

"Although some people perceive the dress code as being harsh, most places you go after high school have a formal or informal culturally-driven dress code," Brian Dobias, guidance counselor, said.

Although the dress code is often portrayed as universally fair, male and female students alike agree that many aspects of it are targeted specifically at a particular gender, making following the dress code harder and less plausible for some than others.

"People will tell you that the reason we have a dress code is because we need to minimize distractions during the school day, but the underlying reason is really because the administration doesn't want anyone to be offended by other people's clothes," Brophy said. "The real offense isn't dress code violations – it's creating a discriminatory system that is quite blatantly instituted primarily for girls. Girls obviously have to go much further out of their way to abide by the dress code, so why should guys be rewarded just the same?"

With both administrative officers and students clashing heads without any prospect of compromise, little has changed in finding a resolution to the dress code enforcement problem. As teachers and students try to reach an agreement that can reasonably be enforced and satisfies parents, students and faculty, individuals on every end are left malcontented.

CATCH PHRASE CONTINUED FROM 1A

the team sponsor and club members alike have expressed excitement about the upcoming year.

"I thought the club sounded like fun... I'll be attending the competitions. I have to lead the warm-ups," math teacher and club sponsor Dave Panning said.

Catchphrase is a game that includes an electronic disc that displays random words. First, the people playing are split into two teams. The first person to start holds the disc in his hand and sees a word displayed. This person has to try to say words or phrases to hint to his team what the word is. For example, if the word was "hat" the person could describe this as "something you wear on your head" or "The Cat in the..." As long as the word is not said, the game will continue. During this commotion of guessing, there is a timer. When the timer goes off, whoever's hand the disc is in loses that round.

Catchphrase Club is currently undergoing the process of becoming an officially school sanctioned club. In order to create and officially school sanctioned club, there are formal guideline and rules that must be followed. All the procedures to create a new club or activity are listed in the Student/Parent Handbook on page 70.

First, a group of interested students must contact the administrator in charge of student activities. The students must then obtain a faculty advisor. This advisor must write a letter indicating his or her support and willingness to supervise the activity. The students should then have a meeting with all "interested students" and explain the purpose and plans for the club. Student Government will then receive the objectives of the club and present them to administration. If the proposal is approved, a constitution must be made. If the constitution is approved, the club is official.

Catchphrase Club hopes to be approved as an official club soon so the members can begin competing. So far, members have been trying to get in contact with students at Bishop Dwenger and Canterbury to try to arrange a competition. There has even been talk of getting Catchphrase Spirit Wear. The club is looking forward to a great year and hopes to gain many new members.

"I'm looking forward to playing catch phrase with phrase catchers," Carly Hamilton (10) said.

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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

PHOTO FROM FLICKR.COM

ISTEP Reform Required, 3

School evaluation based on standardized tests is inadequate, will cause problems when educators teach students only to test

Sex offenders still have rights, should be free from discrimination at YMCA

By Ryan Boylan
Opinion Co-Editor

Officials at the Wabash County branch of the YMCA recently decided to open their doors to convicted sex offenders, causing numerous members to boycott the facility. Concerned members of the community fear that allowing convicted sex offenders to use YMCA facilities will pose a threat to children's and other members' safety. Although the branch still has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to offenders that are still on the registered list of sex offenders, the public is perturbed by even those that have been removed from the list after their sentence expired.

In a society that is used to treating sexual offenders as social pariahs and inferiors, very seldom does action repressing the civil rights of these individuals receive large amounts of public criticism. In fact, it seems as if supporting the basic rights of such a long-feared and detested group has become a taboo in itself. With such strong support from a subjective moral code that promotes sexual innocence and scolds citizens that do not abide, legislators are having to draw the line separating acceptable and logical discrimination from fear-based bigotry and violation of civil rights.

> "To continue to allow such discrimination is comparable to keeping a federal prisoner within a corrective facility long after his or her sentence has been fully served."
>
> **RYAN BOYLAN**
> *Writer*

Other former Y members claim to be boycotting because of the inconsistency of allowing entrance to formerly registered sex offenders but not offenders that are currently on the registry. They believe that anyone ever convicted of a sexual crime should be barred from the facility regardless of other circumstances. This, however, faces criminals with unjust restriction and prejudice after their sentences have expired.

If discrimination is allowed past the expiration of a sex offender's sentence, then the difference between a registered sex offender and a formerly convicted sex offender becomes highly trivial. Once offenders have finished their sentence and are removed from the sex offender registry, they are supposed to be able to slowly return to a normal life without the restrictions of being a registered sex offender, a difficult feat to accomplish when faced with discrimination from what are meant to be public facilities. To continue to allow such discrimination is comparable to keeping a federal prisoner within a corrective facility long after his or her sentence has been fully served; although legally free, he is still kept under the conditions of incarceration.

And if it is recidivism that the community fears, it should be noted that an Indiana Corrections report in the spring of 2009 found that sex offenders released in 2005 had a combined sex crime re-conviction rate of 1.05 percent. According to the study, this rate was "extremely low" and showed "a great deal of promise."

The archaic form of public policy dealing with sex offenders must be reformed and corrected so that the American populace can begin working toward a society that does not victimize a widely innocuous group of people or make snap judgments based on groundless fear that is deeply ingrained in the moral conventions of western society. Although legislation such as Megan's Law releases files on registered sex offenders and allows for citizens to be well informed about their own safety from sexual predators, many still assume that the state will completely protect them from even the sight of a questionable individual.

But no one is constitutionally guaranteed protection from those of whom they do not approve. Even the concerned parents of helpless and innocent children must be smart and resourceful enough to avoid situations that are conducive to sexual predation. The officials of the Wabash County Y have made a decision that serves as a manifestation of freedom and justice, and other public and private facilities should have no choice but to follow suit.

Student-led prayer exercises free expression

Sports ritual not only acceptable, actually exemplifies First Amendment Rights

The Ed Board

Ryan Boylan, Mary Distler, Joe Janizek, Joe Laughlin, Connor O'Hara, Clair Pranger

There has always been a level of ambiguity when it comes to protecting the first amendment rights of free speech and free religion in schools. While students are never coerced into performing any religious act that violates their personal beliefs, there is certainly a high degree of thwarting pressure on students that do not share spiritual ideals with another individual or group. But should religious students be kept from exhibiting their religious values in school simply because others feel pressured and oppressed by it?

One of the many controversial issues is that of the team prayer. In many sports teams, student or coach led prayers are delivered before a big competition or game. Although very seldom will these pleas for divine intervention call to one specific deity, simply addressing the anonymous "God," certain individuals are still alienated: those that do not believe in the existence of a god.

With this group of atheists, agnostics, and other religious skeptics lays the controversy. Because when a subscriber to the minority opinion, it is much easier to be offended than it is to openly voice an unpopular opinion. But this doesn't mean that no one should be able to lead a willing group of students in prayer. It simply means that those that are irreligious or uncomfortable praying with a team will have to be a bit bolder in their opposition. To keep everyone from praying before a competition simply for the personal comfort of a few individuals is just as dictatorial and unjust as forcing everyone to pray.

Not to mention that most of the pressure and fear that irreligious students face is solely based off of the speculative criticism from fundamentally religious people rather than any legitimate coercion from any particular individual or group. In other words, they want religious students to suppress their own ideals because of their lack of comfort in their own morals.

And aside from other reasoning, stu-

> It simply means that those that are irreligious or uncomfortable praying with a team will have to be a bit bolder in their opposition. To keep everyone from praying before a competition simply for the personal comfort of a few individuals is just as dictatorial and unjust as forcing everyone to pray.

dents cannot expect to be protected from such spiritual pressure once they are out of high school. In an institution that is meant to prepare students for a world outside of the microcosm of high school, students should be expected to not submit to pressure from the majority opinion rather than to demand protection from an administrative body.

But another, more unnerving problem can be found in a carelessly executed coach led prayer.

While still within their rights of free speech and religion, paid coaches leading a prayer in favor of any god can very often ride the ambiguous line of legality. Of course a taxpayer should not be expected to forfeit money to a government that will hire coaches who forcefully preach a doctrine that is not, for the most part, unanimously agreed upon.

This, however, is why coaches must be lucidly clear when addressing their teams about pre- or post-game prayers. No athletes should have to suffer an unfortunate experience of praying to a god that they don't believe in, but only if they have the nerve to face the almost inevitable condemnation that goes along with being in the minority opinion. When a team huddles up around a coach for a last-ditch attempt to persuade a god in its favor, the coach should make sure to notify everyone that they have no obligation to participate.

Therefore, to be completely fair and respectful of First Amendment rights, coaches and students should be allowed to express their personal beliefs by whatever reasonable means that are available to them; to participate or not participate; and to pray by themselves, alone, or not at all.

{The Bottom Line} The "student-led" prayer before games is a perfectly legitimate free exercise of religion in school.

Standardized testing needs statewide reform

New ISTEP+ scale gives unfavorable grade following previous tests

By Clair Pranger
Opinion Co-Editor

Every student dreads the ISTEP+ test. More often than not, it is looked on as nothing more than a relief from the monotony of class than a valuable tool to gauge a student's knowledge. This year, however, the ISTEP+ test has delivered a blow to shake the foundations of Homestead and remind students and teachers of the importance of standardized academic tests.

Designed to gauge the aptitude of students on a regulated scale, the ISTEP+ program takes the scores of students around the country and gives the school a grade based on the academic progress shown in the school year. The letter grade scale works much the same way as scales used to grade students: an A being "exemplary," B being "commendable," C equaling "academic progress," D akin to "academic watch" and F equivalent to "probation."

The scores are in, and Homestead fell from a B in 2010 to a C in 2011. While other schools in the area are in a far worse state, falling from a B to a C feels like an insult to the students and staff here. But standardized tests are not everything.

For schools around the country from primary to college, too much emphasis is placed on the all important pass or fail ultimatum. Students should not be pressured to pass a certain class, but to learn concepts necessary for life in their society. Passing doesn't necessarily mean that a student has learned anything, nor does failing mean a student is incapable of learning.

Standardized tests like the ISTEP+ cannot function as a general litmus for the efficacy of a school. They do not take into account special circumstances that can sway a school's results, such as the inclusion of special needs student's test scores in with the general population, which is a contributing factor to Homestead's decline.

If tests cannot allow for these special circumstances, it ceases to be a viable option for the gauging of students on a national or even statewide scale. This calls into question whether standardized tests such as the ISTEP+ are even necessary if they cannot fulfill the very purpose they were designed to accomplish.

Other standard tests like the SAT and ACT are also emphasized too much in American society and academics. If a student may do poorly on the tests, he should not have to suffer a lack of options for his future because of that. Life does not simply stop because a student is a bad test taker.

Test scores should not determine if a student is capable of functioning, nor should they do all the speaking for the student. A truly capable student should not let a bad test score, be it SAT or Algebra, get in the way of education and the willingness to learn.

The country faces a new ultimatum now: either severely reform the tests to which countless students are subjected, or abolish them completely from the curriculum. The time has come to take a fresh look at the schools of this country and evaluate whether they are functioning at the best of their ability, regardless of standardized test scores.

New online class requirement for future students

Class will help improve students' technological literacy along with learning

By Shannon Nycum
Writer

Imagine waking up on an early Monday morning, only to get a frightening glance of the alarm clock that never went off, broadcasting that there are only 10 minutes until the bus arrives. School-related heart attacks such as missing the bus and running late to class seem like a part of life, but those taking classes online are free of these peeves.

Tony Bennett, Indiana's superintendent of public instruction, plans on proposing legislation on requiring all high school students in Indiana to take one online course before graduating.

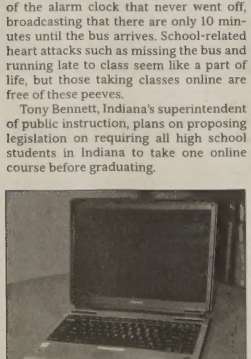


PHOTO BY MARY DISTLER

Above: Toshiba laptop, similar to the kind that students would probably need in order to complete the online courseload that would be required under the new law.

Overall, Bennett's proposal is a good way to prepare students for college; online courses are convenient and completing only one class to graduate should not be a problem.

Nowadays, technology is the hype. More often are people typing assignments rather than writing, which is one of the reasons why the Indiana curriculum no longer teaches cursive. Everyone wants an iPad or Droid, and this is all because the current generation craves convenience.

Technology has allowed for the power to easily communicate by texting, be up-to-date on what is going on with those around us thanks to Facebook and Twitter, as well as learn by Google and online classes.

Online classes are a convenient way to learn, and there are numerous benefits of online learning. One is reduction in budget cuts and spending in schools since there is not as much of a need for utility and staff.

In addition, online learning gives students the chance to learn on a flexible schedule for those who are involved in extra-curricular activities. Every student has his own way of learning, some people understand faster or slower than others. With the help of a personal guide, students can be taught at their own pace. Also, students will be given the chance to explore even more subjects since there are a plentiful variety of classes.

On the other hand, online classes make cheating a breeze. Students who usually do not do well in school most likely have little motivation to learn, and guides with less dedication will not make good influences on such students. Yet, online classes have more positive features than negative.

In regards to Bennett's proposal, universities are beginning to adapt to online courses.

Making high school students take a course online with help prepare and familiarize them for their future. 38 states have already begun operating online schools and Bennett plans to make Indiana an addition to them.

It is not known if there are any specific classes that must be taken on online in order to graduate, but it is obvious that every student will need a computer to take an online course. The majority of people in Indiana have personal computers in their homes, and those without personal computers will still have the convenience of nearby libraries.

These students may even be given computers from their schools. As a personal laptop will be necessary for college, it is a smart choice to invest in one. Students will undoubtedly utilize these computers in their future studies.

Overall, the class should be incredibly useful for students, as it encourages them to foster a variety of skills. They will not only learn the content taught in the class, but they will also learn the important skill of taking an online class.

facebook crawl

Every Sunday night Facebook Expert Jacob Cook will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.

Question: "What homecoming theme day would you create, and why?"

Adam Gayer (12) ▸▸ "I would most definitely be dressing up as your choice of your favorite YouTube video hit, or failed interviews. Antoine Dodson would be a good example of one."

Cheyenne Padgett (12) ▸▸ "Red shirt day, because I would actually participate."

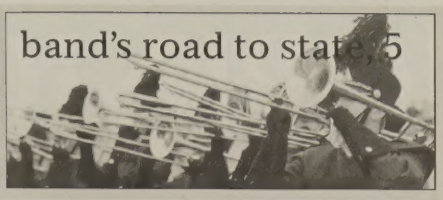
Kendra Stinson (10) ▸▸ "Gangster day, because everyone has a little bit of gangster in them. And half our school wouldn't even have to dress up."

Andrew Clark (12) ▸▸ "I guess backwards day. No reason for that, i just think it would be kinda funny to see people do it."

Chad Childers (11) ▸▸ "Nerd Day. Caus it would be AWESOME."

Josh Caccamo (12) ▸▸ "Amerikan day to show my 'merikan spirit. We live in 'merika, respect 'merika, and speak AMERICAN."

Joe Eagan (12) ▸▸ "Back in time, each grade level has a different era."



band's road to state, 5

'Swish and Click' to enter Harry Potter's world

J.K. Rowling's website 'Pottermore' revives interest in magic, Harry Potter series online

By Laura Zweig
Copy Editor

The cure to post-Potter depression is just a swish and click.

On October 1, J.K. Rowling, author of the wildly popular Harry Potter series, will officially launch her new website, Pottermore.com. The site, which offers the opportunity to dive into the books in a unique way, was designed as a thank-you from Rowling to her readers.

"13 years after the first Potter book was published, I am still astonished and delighted at the response the books have met," Rowling said in a video on Pottermore's home page. "Pottermore will be the place where fans of any age can share, participate in, and rediscover the story."

Pottermore offers members of the 'digital' generation a chance to experience the books again chapter by chapter. Complete with drawings of the setting, background information on characters, spells, and untold aspects of the wizarding world, the site combines several magical yet interactive elements for fans to enjoy. Pottermore is also an exclusive place to purchase digital audio-books and eBooks of the series.

Fans of the books, such as Jenny Ricke (11), are excited to dive back into their favorite series.

"I like *Harry Potter* because the books are different than anything else I have read. They have young heroes that are easy to relate to," Ricke, whose sister got her interested in the series in the first grade, said.

After hearing about the site from friends, Ricke is looking forward to reading all of the information not included in the books.

Similarly, Lynn Vogel, English teacher, is more interested in the content than the game aspect of Pottermore.

"I'm really looking forward to the supplementary writing about the series," Vogel said.

While most fans will have to wait until October 1 to enter the site, Samara Reiter (12) was part of a lucky few granted early access. From July 31 through August 6, one million fans completed the Magic Quill Challenge to become a beta tester of the site. Each day at an unknown time, a question was posted on Pottermore.com, and, while space remained, those able to answer the question won. The demand was so high that some resorted to buying and selling usernames and passwords on eBay.

"I got in on day two [of the Magic Quill Challenge]. I knew the question was going to be up around three or four in the morning, so I stayed up all night waiting for it," Reiter said.

Reiter said she became a member of the *Potter* fandom when she first read the books in kindergarten. After attending midnight book release parties and movie premieres, she was not accustomed to having to wait for *Potter*. After the Magic Quill Challenge, it took another month before she was actually allowed onto the site.

When Pottermore users log in for the first time, they are arbitrarily assigned a username, generally based off of terms from the book. This system allows for a sense of anonymity and mystery. One could be dueling Daniel Radcliffe, the actor who portrays Harry in the movies, and not even know it.

The user travels through the books and experiences Hogwarts for himself. Fans receive wands, shop in Diagon Alley, duel other users, and more. Perhaps the most awaited feature, Pottermore users are sorted into one of Hogwarts's four houses: Gryffindor, Ravenclaw, Hufflepuff and Slytherin.

"I'm in Gryffindor," Reiter said. "I was really disappointed when I wasn't put into Hufflepuff. I thought I was having an identity crisis."

For some users, this process is particularly nerve-wracking because it is decided by J.K. Rowling. The questions asked are designed by the author herself, and the placing is permanent.

"There are no do-overs," Reiter said. "I had to get it right."

While the target audience of this new site is *Potter* readers, it is possible that this form of interactive reading will start a trend.

"Interactive reading means more comprehension and in-depth reading," Vogel said.

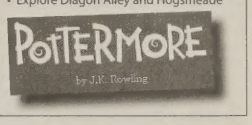
The interest in Pottermore highlights the dedication of the *Potter* fans and how strongly they were affected by the books.

"[Rowling's] series has made people that have never read before have a love for literature," Vogel said.

ACCIO POTTERMORE

Activities Pottermore users can experience include:

- Virtual Hogwarts
- Additional Character, Setting and Plot Information
- Exclusive site for purchasing eBooks and audio books
- Sorting into one of four houses
- Attend Hogwarts classes
- Explore Diagon Alley and Hogsmeade



How do you like them apples?

Johnny Appleseed event offers volunteering

By Dana Hart
Copy Editor

Maple pecan fudge redefined definitions of the word 'sinful' at the Johnny Appleseed Festival this past weekend.

Every September, the Johnny Appleseed Festival is held to commemorate one of Fort Wayne's historical icons. Johnny Appleseed, a man who is said to have worn a tin cap (batter up!) on his head, traveled the country planting apple seeds and entertaining children. His legendary grave site is located in a park next to the Memorial Coliseum and marks the site of the festival. Craftsmen, antique collectors, and food vendors dressed in old-time attire welcome thousands of people, offering unique gifts and selling copious amounts of sugar to overexcited children.

Just as in the past, this year, excitement was running high.

"Our stand is always busy," HHS Marching Band mom Jackie Murray, said. "Once you try the chicken 'n dumplings, you won't want to go to any other stand."

Perhaps the most alluring reason to attend the festival is the delicious food that can rarely be found anywhere else in Fort Wayne.

Senior John Schneider said that "the smells" of the festival are the most memorable part.

True, who can resist the scent of roasting meat on a stick or steaming corn on the cob? Or the wafting aroma of hot caramel corn, served by Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Bethany United Methodist Church in a pseudo-popcorn competition?

Riley McComb (12) said that her favorite part of the festival is "the root beer floats," another scrumptious, hand-made treat crowd goers cannot resist.

Aside from these culinary temptations, visitors to the festival can also peruse a collection of artisan crafts.

At the Dreamweaver Studio crafts table, Kathleen Stone and her husband sell a collection of dreamweavers and jewelry made from natural objects such as bear knuckles and elk antlers.

"The black bear is called the 'man of the woods'; he can walk upright with his paws out and knuckles clenched," Stone said, when asked why he uses bear knuckles. "Using the knuckles ensures a product that will be strong and durable and will last a long time."

And, of course, no 1800s-themed festival would be complete without an appearance from Indiana's favorite native, President Abraham Lincoln. Smiling and chuckling, Honest Abe sports his top hat with grace and confidence, taking pictures with children and encouraging others to always tell the truth.

Alongside the allure of food and fine craftsmanship, the Johnny Appleseed Festival hosts three main stage areas where local artists perform old-fashioned music and dance. Children enjoy country games such as apple bobbing, antler tossing, and "Jacob's Ladder", a form of Cat's Cradle in which they use their hands to weave string into the shape of a ladder.

This past weekend, Key Club members and band parents were especially busy making the chicken 'n dumplings by hand all day. The line snaked through the food area as students and parents rolled the dough by hand and tossed it into vats of boiling oil to cook. Sweating dads stirred the dough in the vats and added it to the broth, which was later ladled into cups and handed off to drooling customers. Hopefully, the earnings generated from the stand will greatly benefit the band in the coming season.

Proud of its illustrious history, Fort Wayne comes alive each fall when the aroma of the Johnny Appleseed Festival excites the air. Vendors and visitors flock from all over the country to experience the spectacular festivities, get a taste of old-fashioned culture and hopefully stock up on enough decadently sinful maple pecan fudge to last them through the upcoming year.

During the weekend of the Johnny Appleseed Festival, people come together to celebrate the roots of our city and to remember why the apple is not only a healthy food eaten to ward off doctors, but instead a symbol of tradition.

PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLY

Above: Woman in colonial drag speaks to crowd.
Top Right: Festival volunteer applies face paint to small child.
Right: Woman demonstrates spinning wool.
Below: Key Club members volunteer selling chicken 'n dumplings to festival attendees.

Students look forward to fall activities, cooler weather

By Liz Humensky
Writer

It's that time of year again. The leaves change color, the sweltering summer heat melts away into a softer, cooler breeze and department stores come out with the winter holiday decorations way too early. Autumn brings with it the promise of fun activities and holidays along with a sweet relief from blazing hot weather and a reminder that winter is just around the corner.

As winter is still several months away, everyone waits patiently and enjoys fall pleasures such as the Pumpkin Spice Latte at Starbucks, watching trees' leaves change from jade green to fiery reds and oranges and the classic pick-your-own-pumpkin patches.

"[Fall is better than any other season because] of the leaves, weather, colors and football. It is the best season," drama teacher Mrs. Malooley said.

Along with the cooler weather, fall brings with it many unique opportunities. One such example is football season. This year, the kick-off game was on September 8th, fueling tail-gate parties and excessive team spirit wear.

"[My favorite fall activity is] playing in leaf piles and watching the Pittsburgh Steelers dominate!" Candi Alexander (12) said.

Speaking of parties and outfits, fall is famous for another entertaining event. Halloween, a self-presented holiday, comes with its own thrills and traditions like going door-to-door asking for sweet and sour candies, dressing up in outrageous costumes, and throwing haunted parties for friends. Many high school students admit that they can't resist the allure of free candy and brave the packs of children to trick-or-treat, often coordinating costumes with their friends.

"It would have to be a tie between Halloween, because who doesn't love candy, and football, because it's awesome!" Marceda McElroy (11) said of his favorite part about fall.

Of course, football and Halloween aren't the only two events that fall brings each year. Another American tradition is Thanksgiving, the fourth Thursday in November. As the first American holiday, Thanksgiving is a time to celebrate and to be thankful while chowing down on delicious turkey, chatting with family and friends, and watching football game after football game. It is a great day to be with your family and friends and to celebrate the year.

Of course, what would be the point of participating in all these grand activities without dressing in the latest fall fashions? The cold weather brings trendy coats and scarves out of the closet.

"I really need the warmer clothes for the coming cold season!" Alyssa Hockema (10) said.

As jackets and jeans come out of boxes and into closets, the traditional packing up of shorts, sandals, and tank tops happens. Even though it's sad to watch fashionable sunglasses and comfortable tank-tops go into retirement for the rest of the year, it's always fun to start mixing and matching with warmer-to-wear fall clothes.

Just the essence of fall, not including all the listed activities, events, and holidays, seems to boost the spirits in the school. Everyone seems to have that one reason why they enjoy the season.

"The weather is not too hot, and it's fun to snuggle up under a blanket with a cup of hot chocolate at a varsity football game." Alexander said.

School spirit days garner support from minimal students

I've always considered myself to be a person with very little school spirit.

The few Homestead shirts I own rarely appear outside of the gym. My letterman jacket is from an obscure school in Michigan and says 'Larry' on it. I loved the ironic people dressed in all black during last year's MORP Dance, which had a 'White Out' theme.

In an old, cheesy movie, I would be judged and would be made an outcast for my lack of school spirit. Here, it is the opposite.

Homestead has practically made anti-school spirit a sport. I see more t-shirts for other high schools than for ours in the hallways. No one can sing the school song, but the words "I hate Homestead" have gained a musical tone from repetition. The bell rings with bitterness.

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTANZO
Co-Life Editor

Now let me start by saying that this general lack of affection for our school doesn't apply to everyone. There are some 'Peppy Petes' and 'Sprightly Sarahs' who express school spirit because they genuinely want to, so power to them. I'm speaking of those who don't even care enough to admit that they have not one shred of school spirit. Homecoming Week is a good place to start. Although preceding the game, Student Government organizes spirit days for the week, they rarely fuel enthusiasm for the event. In fact, most people don't even bother to dress up.

Let me be frank; there are two main reasons people participate in spirit days. Surprisingly, neither include expressing their undying love for our school.

One reason is teacher bribes. Come Homecoming Week, teachers tempt students with candy or extra credit if they dress up for x number of days. While this does generate more costumes, they tend to be thrown together shortly before class and discarded immediately after.

The other reason is to impress members of the opposite sex. Guys wear huge, ridiculous costumes that their lady friends can giggle about and can compliment. Girls cut holes out of their Homecoming t-shirts and shorten their 70's skirts and pajama shorts, because the dress code doesn't count if it is a spirit day.

Sad, but true. Kids these days...

It doesn't end there. Pep rallies are merely an opportunity to bring the underclassmen down. Everyone hates the mighty Spartan mascot. (Which I suppose is understandable. He's completely disproportional.) The school couldn't even find someone willing to don said costume. Almost every school event is deemed lame in some way.

These are not just the people who don't play sports or participate in clubs. I've seen guys decked out in blue and gold, complete with peppy face paint, loudly proclaiming that Homestead is the worst school ever.

And why do we do this? Because our peers have decided that it's not cool. It's not cool to dress up in a cowboy outfit on Cowboy Day. It's not cool to skip around pronouncing, "I love Homestead!" God forbid anyone wear more than one Support the Spartans shirt a week.

Fun fact: Merriam Webster defines the word cool as "moderately cold; lacking in warmth." Scrolling further down the page will reveal that the slang definition is "fashionable or hip."

Well, maybe it's not fashionable or hip to have school spirit. But it can be fun. If the reason for not participating is genuine disgust for school sponsored activities, that's great. But don't miss out on potentially enjoyable school events because other people think they're lame. As I often say, you are your own person.

Well, I don't actually say that. It just seemed to apply here.

In honor of this column, I have decided to show some Homestead pride and dress up for all the spirit days. So keep a lookout for a girl bursting with school spirit this week and be inspired. A new trend is coming.

The Road *to* Band State

Daily routine prepares band for upcoming competitions

WILLIAM NGO
Writer

As the band season advances, members are weighed down with the stress of earning a spot in the ISSMA State Finals for the 25th consecutive year. Getting there will take a lot of work; a typical week during band season consists of practice, practice, practice, competition, and repeat. While marching to the beat and getting an involuntary tan is simply a way of life for the band, they are closer than ever to becoming state champions with their innovative show, "Children of the Sun."

Monday: Visual Day

Visual practice, lasting from seventh period until 5:00 p.m., is dedicated to working on the technical aspects of the show. Although intense, visual practice grants the team an opportunity to perform the piece repeatedly for revision. It is not uncommon for the original rehearsed performance to change and to be supplemented with more fostered choreography.

"When we're adding new choreography, you see us practicing whenever we get a free moment," Nicki Morgan (10) said.

Tuesday: Music Day

Accompanying the elaborate choreography is the music, which is composed every year. Equally important as image, the music brings the routine to life.

"Music days are nice because we get to go home before starting our [practice]," Ben Burris (11) said.

However, from 6-8 p.m., working on the same sections can be dull and repetitive. On music days, the group has to run the show twice. Melody problems are also identified so they can be perfected for upcoming competitions.

Wednesday: Visual Day

This year's show requires more attention to detail than in previous years. The eight minute performance is comprised of intricate motions and formations that the band has to know perfectly.

"It was hard at first learning all the new choreography; there's so much more of it than last year," Emily Featherston (12) said.

By executing the routine numerous times, practice is focused on the show's technical aspects – an important factor in whether or not a band is crowned state champions.

> "Before practice starts, it's usually happy and upbeat, but when we're about to perform, we get really intense and everything has to be perfect."
>
> **NICKI MORGAN (10)**
> *Band Member*

Thursday: Music Day

On music days, section leaders are permitted to schedule sectional practices. These meetings are good opportunities for underclassmen to have one-on-one attention with upperclassmen.

"We have sectionals to become better marchers and to bond," Arianna Papadakis (9) said.

Although members are often tired by the end of the practice, as they anticipate winning finals, the team remains upbeat. Before beginning a run-through, band director Steve Barber calls out, "Are you ready, band?" And each time the band says, "Yes, sir."

Friday: Visual Day

On the final visual day, the goal is to improve any rough spots in the show.

"I think we get a lot done on visual days," Jack Render (10) said. "We work to get better."

The practice highlights discipline and choreography, which will enhance the projection of the routine and create a more entertaining performance in the competition the next day.

Saturday: Competition Day

On competition days, most band sections enjoy an early breakfast, but, an hour later, practice begins again. As loading time nears, last minute touch-ups are made before members get on the bus. With their instruments and their flags in trailers, the band members are on route to the competition site.

Once on site, as their time to perform fast approaches, members begin to warm up.

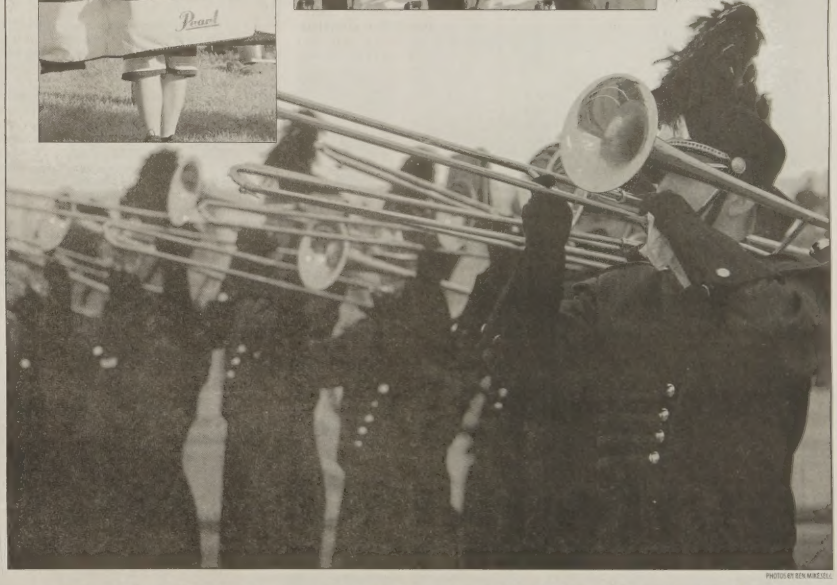
"Before practice starts, it's usually happy and upbeat, but when we're about to perform, we get really intense and everything has to be perfect," Morgan said.

Lighting up the field during competitions, "Children of the Sun" captivates the audience with a unique use of props that emulate an image of the Sun. The more energy and precision the team exerts, the better the scores they receive from judges.

The band week ends late Saturday night when the band returns, but another practice is next week's priority. The group not only hopes to attend the state finals again but to triumph as champions.

"I hope we come in first this year," Grant Bassett (11) said. "I'm pretty sure it's the best show in a long time."

Far left: Evan Smith (9) practices his posture and drumming to the right beat.
Left: Brian Woolwine (10), Will Reise (10), and Grant Bassett (11) focus on marching and drumming in unison as a small section of the drumline.
Below: The band lined up for a half-time performance.



PHOTOS BY BEN MARZEC

Mathematics teacher Junior Stailey's innovative business offers 'Caskets for Life'

Unconventional ideas are often met with ridicule or indifference. Nonetheless, Junior Stailey, Algebra II and Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry teacher, has disregarded such obstacles and has pursued his vision with zeal and determination. "Caskets for Life", Stailey's infant business, is a venture which specializes in building household furniture that can transform into a funeral coffin. To learn more about his idea, the Spartana sat down with Stailey for some insight on "Caskets for Life".

Spartana: How did you first come up with the idea for "Caskets for Life"?

Stailey: I am a thinker. As many would attest, I generate a lot of ideas; some good and many bad. I believe it was Benjamin Franklin that said, "In order to increase your success rate, you have to double your failure rate." This is who I am. Also, I am pretty frugal. I do not like debt and I am always looking for ways to save money or spend it wisely when I do. I teach a class at my church in which the average age is probably 82. These people face the reality of death more often than most, and this kind of got me thinking.

Essentially, a casket is nothing more than a cabinet. The only difference is it's made for one day's use. I want a cabinet I can use for years before I need it for death.

Over the last two years, I have been designing one in my mind, and after talking with a cabinetmaker, I decided to have one built.

Spartana: What is the basic plan for these cabinets? How will they be designed?

Stailey: My cabinet has adjustable shelves. Unlike a regular casket with handles on the sides, my cabinets' sides are smooth. The pallbearers' handles can instead be found on the back of the cabinet and will rotate out when needed. For now, these fabric handles are hidden behind the lid of the casket, which is attached to the back of the cabinet.

The cabinet I designed for myself serves as a pantry for my garage. It is a beautiful, stained wood cabinet with birch plywood sides and cherry trim. You would never know it is a casket. Right now, it holds my canned garden vegetables, coffee, parmesan cheese, etc. Pictures can be found on my website www.casketsforlife.com .

Spartana: How do you plan on marketing your product?

Stailey: I currently have a website and a Facebook page, also called www.casketsforlife.com. Aside from articles in magazines and newspapers, one of my big future goals is to make appearances at home shows and fairs. I'm sure I would certainly attract a lot of attention! This product is something you really need to see in person so it does not seem so unusual.

Spartana: What is the purpose of creating a "Caskets for Life?"

Stailey: I am not worried about what happens after I die, so the reality of death isn't scary to me. I don't want to spend a bunch of money on medical treatments or my funeral when I could instead give the money to my kids or an organization.

For one, [a "Casket for Life"] saves money because my design is inexpensive compared to many others and is designed for a lifetime of use. I would also like to have a part-time income for when I retire from teaching someday.

Spartana: Have you explored any designs other than cabinets?

Stailey: I also have designs ready for a bookshelf, a coat closet, a chest of drawers, a desk and possibly even an entertainment center.

Spartana: What would you like your students to take away from this idea?

Stailey: I want young people to use their ideas to start thinking about their future. First, take what you love to do and design a part-time business around it. If you act while you are young, you might have something good down the road, maybe even some income to fall back on when times are tough. Secondly, don't let the mockers get you down if you believe in something. You may not have the best idea in the world, but if you believe in it, go for it. Finally, don't let your good ideas just sit. If you do, someone else will take them. Time is on your side; use it to your advantage.

Spartan football reigns supreme, 7

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Girl's golf team drives through competition

As their undefeated season progresses, the girl's golf team improves ability, strengthens

By Allison Overlander
Writer

The girls' golf team is dominating its current season, boasting an undefeated record of 10-0. The team is also undefeated in invitational competition, with a record of 4-0.

The most-recent regular season match for the team was a match against Leo, which the team was able to easily win. As the game was also senior night, the team was able to acknowledge the dedication of Karley Dobis (12) and Jasmine Jennings (12), the only seniors on the team.

"The seniors have helped so much to keep the team focused throughout the year, and their skill has helped make us the great team that we are. We'll miss them next year," varsity golfer Olson said.

The team captured an undefeated record in the NHC Conference this year. To cap-off a spectacular regular season, the team also dominated the NHC Conference tournament. As a result of its domination within the conference, the entire team, which includes Dobis, Jennings, Emily Olson (11), Annie Butchko (10), and Courtney DeLaquesta (10), was named on the first and second all-conference teams. In addition, coach Michelle Swing received the award of coach-of-the-year.

"It was great to see our athletes and coach receive such recognition. We have worked so hard this year, and we have proven ourselves a prominent force in the NHC Conference," Olson said.

The girls' golf team is consistently strong, and typically produces these results. It seems that every single competition that the team participates in, they consistently perform to the best of their ability and find some miraculous way to top their performances week to week. The team captured the past five consecutive sectional titles, and this season, they are hoping to start a new trend by advancing to state competition. With the success they have experienced thus far, the athletes believe that such results are possible this year.

"We don't have very much competition in our sectional. According the newspapers, we're the team to beat which puts a target on our backs and creates a lot of pressure. Regionals will be more competitive but hopefully we will do well and make it to state," states Jennings (12).

Working hard during the season can be tough, but when the team has a special bond like this one, it makes it worth it. They all share a common love for the sport. This is a team that understands what it means the work together and combine their strengths, and nullify their weaknesses in order to give themselves the best results possible. The team is looking forward to a great season, one the players will never forget.

"Our team has a lot of chemistry and most of us hang out together outside of practice. We're always encouraging each other out on the course and during practice. We all like to joke around and pull pranks, so practice is always fun. We just love being around each other. There's never a dull moment," Jennings (12) said.

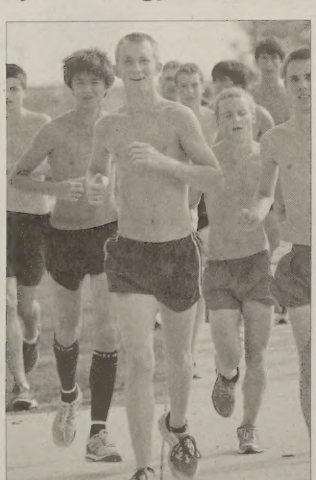
As the season progresses, and the team's competition starts to get more and more intimidating, the team's top golfer, Dobis, is optimistic about the team's future, as well as her success for the coming postseason.

"For the first time in my four years, I truly believe that we can make it to state. It is always the team goal, but for the past three years, we have fallen short at regionals," Dobis said. "But if there is a year, it's definitely this one. Our entire team is very strong."

Running the State

PHOTOS BY BEN MIKESELL

After strong finishes in invitationals, boys cross country team's rankings, spirits rise



Dustin Moore (12) leads the boys' cross country team during a practice run. Moore, along with other seniors, is one of the leading runners this year and a secret weapon of the team.

By Joe Laughlin
Sports Editor

Accelerating to a first-place ranking in the NHC Conference, the boys' cross country team is continuing its tradition of excellence. After winning both the Marion Invitational and the West Noble Invitational, the team has proven its rankings to be just and well deserved.

With a combination of personal-best times, the boys' team won the Marion Invitational over a consistent rival, Snider High School. The exceptional runs of Max Silcox (11) and Blake Harris (11) earned them finishes at second and ninth place, respectively; however, the performances of two runners, Brandon Perry (12) and Sam Moore (10), were critical to the team's ability to win the meet.

With strong runners Silcox and Harris leading the pack, the hard work of Perry and Moore allowed them to close the gap between the runners. This effect is crucial to a team's ability to score well at meets; individual performances alone would not be sufficient. It truly requires the strength and endurance of the entire team to succeed.

"We work really hard. Now, we run as a pack, and that's our biggest strength," Harris said.

At the West Noble Invitational, the boys' varsity team again won in a dominant fashion amongst 30 teams. The top two runners for the team were Silcox and Moore, who finished in third and ninth place. Similar to the Marion Invitational, the ability of each member of the varsity team to score highly enabled them to earn first place. The first place finish allowed the team to develop greater confidence and prove that they consistently race to win.

"These meets showed just how much we have improved as a team, and that we are not a one-time team. We have also proven that we're a force to be reckoned with in the state," Silcox said.

The most notable performance of the meet did not occur in the varsity competition; rather, it was Max Dvorak's astounding first-place finish in the junior varsity race. Dvorak's time would have placed him in the top 30 runners of the varsity race, and he would have beaten the front-runners of 11 teams. Following this performance, he was named the Runner of the Week by RunIndiana.com and moved into the varsity squad.

> "These meets showed just how much we have improved as a team, and that we are not a one-time team ... We're a force to be reckoned with in the state."
>
> **MAX SILCOX**
> *Varsity Runner*

"It was definitely the most exciting race I've ever competed in, and it's a big honor to earn the Runner of the Week title," Dvorak said. "I'm hoping to continue to earn varsity positions by setting new goals for myself."

The next invitational will be at IPFW, where many of the teams that will be in the semi-state competition will be running. The team has been stopped from advancing to state at the semi-state meet before; therefore, they are hoping to prove their ability by dominating this invitational.

The strength of this team is derived from its team-oriented atmosphere that is created by captains Perry and John Rose (12). The team holds 52 runners this year; therefore, inter-squad competition is always persistent. This competition propels runners to push one another and improve their own times, which is exemplified by Dvorak's recent performance.

The team's goal for the postseason is to advance to the state competition as a team; in order to do so, however, the team must remain focused. The team is currently ranked 2nd in its semi-state competition and 11th throughout the state. The athletes recognize that they must not relinquish their work ethic simply because they have been ranked amongst the best teams in the state.

"While [the rankings are] exciting, we try not to let it get to our heads, because if we've learned anything from last year, it's that rankings don't mean anything," Silcox said.

With the determination and the talent to accomplish their goals, the boys' cross country team shows promise for an exciting postseason run.

Boys' soccer team secures NHC Conference title

Spartans defend undefeated NHC record, beat rival Carroll in penalty kicks

By Jacob Cook
Writer

The boys soccer team recently guaranteed themselves at least a share of the NHC Title with a 2-1 win over Carroll in penalty kicks. The win gave the team a total record of 12-3-0 with a 6-0 NHC record.

Before their thrilling overtime win over Carroll, the team won the Canterbury Invitational with wins over Washington and Valparaiso. Jake Welbaum (12) scored two goals in the first game against Washington and led the team to a 2-0 win. Before facing Homestead, Washington had not been scored on by any other team and was ranked sixth in the state. "Scoring two goals on a goalie that hadn't let any in before me, that was awesome," Welbaum said. "We went in with the expectation to win and it came out the way we wanted it to."

The team went on later that night to defeat Valporaiso and win the tournament overall. A final score of 1-0 with the lone goal scored by Joe Laughlin (11) gave the team a statewide rank of 17th.

The team's most recent victory over Carroll has been the season's highlight. Joe Laughlin's lone goal with seven minutes left in regulation gave the team a 1-0 lead which was soon tied by Carroll, and the game went into penalty kicks. After seven total attempts on goal, a final goal by Rashaan Stephens (11) and a save by goalie Austin Williams (12) won the game. Alex Moore, starting center-mid, was a huge contributor to the team's overall success. "It was a long and intense game," Moore said. "Not scoring until the last seven minutes of regulation was strange for us, but we pulled through and won."

Recently, the team lost their leading goal scorer in Anthony Jimenez (10) to a broken tibia and fibula sustained during a game. Jimenez had scored 10 goals and was one of the top five leading goal-scorers for the NHC. He also scored the teams single goal against rival Canterbury early in the first half. The loss of a significant offensive contributor has been detrimental to the team's overall prowess with the ball, yet has motivated the team. "It's really different without [Anthony] on the field," Moore said. "He does a lot for the offense but he's our motivation."

The team is now setting their sights on their sectional tournament. Three regular season games stand between them and the start of their tournament. Bishop Dwenger, Norwell, and Carmel are the teams remaining opponents before their hopefully long run into the postseason. This year, the group is setting high standards for themselves.

Last year, the team's season ended during their preliminary round of Regionals against Carroll. This year, they are hoping to return to the state finals after a year's absence. "It's a big goal, but we know we can do it," Welbaum said. "We want to repeat what the team from [2009-2010] did and make it all the way to the state finals."

Taking one step at a time, the team is focused primarily on their sectional tournament. The Homestead Sectional features Columbia City, Huntington North, and Fort Wayne North Side. The team has already beaten Columbia City and Huntington North, but has not had the opportunity to play North Side. However, the group is looking with optimism towards the beginning of another great postseason, that could lead to the winning of another NHC title for the Spartans. Once the battle for the NHC title is over and done with and the Spartans hopefully dominate their conference, the team will look towards the true holy grail of their season: the state title.

Top-tier athletes ready to enter college; accept scholarships

Every journey begins with the ending of another. While the path we're on might come to an end, there is always another path illuminated for us to follow. I am coming up fast to the end of the incredible path I have followed for four years now as a high school athlete. I'm looking towards the next path in my life shaking in both fear and excitement. It's the dream of most high school athletes to continue their sports into their college of choice. Right now, I'm living my dream.

For the majority of you that don't know me, I am a four-year member of Homestead's swim team. Collectively, we have sent several of the athletes the school has sent on to continue their sports in college for swimming. Myself and almost every other member of my class on the team are planning to continue that tradition. Swimming for us is not so much a sport or activity we participate in, but part of our personal culture that influences everything we do.

A New Direction

By Jacob Cook
Writer

This type of culture is evident in just about every sport. Hard work and dedication are no longer goals for the athletes of this school; rather, they have become standards. That is why I am not one of the few that Homestead will have participate in varsity athletics in college, but this year, one of the many. This year there are seemingly more athletes than ever in the school's history that are planning to participate in their sports in college.

The only bad part for me is the idea that I'll be leaving the team I have been a part of for almost seven years now. Shane Talley (12), Joel Foreman (12), and Taylor Howard (12) are the other senior guys on the swim team planning to swim in college, and all three in different states. These are the guys that I have spent more time with than anybody else, with 24 hours of practice a week since seventh grade. We have been Spartans for four years now and part of a tradition of excellence.

And sadly enough, our time as Spartans is ending. Recruiting has officially begun for several sports, swimming included. Calls from coaches have been pouring in, paperwork has been filled out, and recruiting trips are being scheduled.

Receiving a call from a college coach about participating in their program may be one of the most exciting experiences of your high school life. For some they will come in waves and seem virtually unending, while most tend to be spread out. They will ask about you personally, your academics, your athletic history, and of course how their school is the best possible choice for the education that will impact the rest of your life. Several phone calls later, if the interest is mutual, the coach will invite you on an official recruiting trip.

The NCAA allows only five official, paid recruiting trips per athlete. While it might seem like a lot, it seems like you have no room to breath with how few options you are legally left with. Most Division I schools will pay for you to fly out to their school (possibly the most exciting part) and spend 48 hours on campus, basically as a member of the team. They'll try and take you to a home football game and you'll spend a night in the dorms with other members of the team. On the whole, you get to become a college student for the weekend.

My first call was from the coaching staff of Notre Dame; obviously a very exciting moment for me. As the weeks into recruiting went on, I narrowed down my options and came up with a very prestigious academic and athletic list. This weekend I am in Philadelphia visiting the University of Pennsylvania, a member of the Ivy League. Three weeks from then I will be heading up to Lansing, Michigan to spend a weekend at Michigan State. And shortly after that, I will be spending a weekend at Miami University of Ohio. Choices, choices, and more choices.

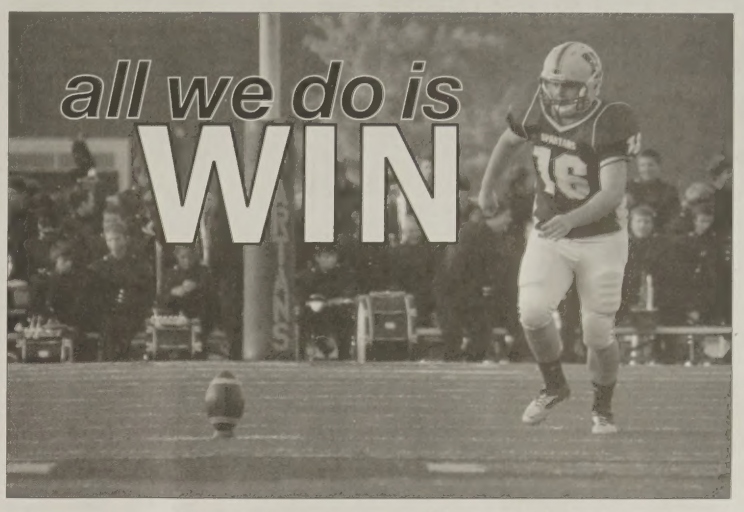
The other athletes of this school have had their fill of fun as well. Zach Terrell (12), starting quarterback, has already committed to be a Western Michigan Bronco next year. Andre Jernigan (12) of the baseball team verbally committed to Xavier University at the beginning of the school year. Kyle O'Brien (12) has begun his recruiting process for long jumping and is looking towards several schools on the west coast. Walking through the crowded, white halls of Homestead, I look around and see I am amongst the top ten percent of all high school athletes in the country.

> "Hard work and dedication are no longer goals for the athletes of this school; rather, they have become standards."
>
> **JACOB COOK**

You read correctly. Ten percent. According to a study taken by the NCAA, approximately ten percent of all high school athletes go on to play their respective sport in college.

While we are incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity, it's bittersweet. Another study by the NCAA shows that less than one percent of all college athletes make it professionally in their respective sports. Therefore it will likely be the last time we are part of an athletic team. The last time we sit nervously in the locker room waiting for our first practice to begin. The last time that we will work with grueling practice schedules balanced with tough academics. And last but certainly not least, it will be the last time we all get to compete. Competition keeps us going on a daily basis, and is the reason that we do what we do. We love to win. We have a passion for testing ourselves to see who truly is the best. And it's all coming to an end.

Of course, that bitter reality is almost five years away from us. At then end of the day, we are representing ourselves and Homestead as we dive head first into our futures. So to all of the athletes continuing their sports in college that I share the halls of Homestead with, I wish the very best of luck to you. We have all done things that deserve incredible recognition. We are being considered for an honor that only one in ten high school athletes will receive. It's a dream that we've had for a long time, and a big dream at that. The lucky thing is that for us, we are living our dreams.



Varsity football wins again, hopes to remain undefeated

By Tyler Koteskey
Writer

The varsity football team has continued to amaze spectators with a record of 4-0, which includes only dominant victories. The team is currently ranked eleventh in the state and is moving up each week.

After beginning 2-0 against Huntington North and Warsaw, the Spartans began its conference schedule with a 49-3 victory over East Noble. The explosive offense propelled the team past East Noble with ease. Prior to the game, East Noble was the sixth ranked team in the 4A division. Isaac Griffith (11) caught five touchdown passes in the game, threw one touchdown pass and ran for another touchdown. Moreover, quarterback Zach Terrell (12) contributed by throwing for 218 yards and five touchdowns.

"The season has started off very well," running back Grayson Bastin (11) said. "We are playing at a very high level."

The most significant aspect of this game was that the defense held East Noble to only a field goal. After its defensive struggles earlier in the season, the defense appears to have improved tremendously.

In the fourth game of the season, the boys faced Columbia City, who was originally predicted to be the toughest competition for them in the NHC Conference; however, the previously undefeated Columbia City team was defeated 52-13 in another blowout victory.

"Our strengths are definitely how well we've been able to score and the defense shutting down the [other teams'] offenses, giving us more possessions," Terrell said. Terrell threw four touchdown passes in the victory, and Jake Weber (12) caught seven passes for 168 yards and two touchdowns.

"The team is doing so well due to all the preparation and hard work we put in prior to the start of the season," said Terrell.

> "We cannot get ahead of ourselves because once you do you make yourself vulnerable to get beat."
>
> **ZACH TERRELL (12)**
> *Quarterback*

To achieve these early wins, the primary focus of the football team has been its offensive expertise. Behind Terrell, the team averages 52 points per game on the season. Terrell consistently finds wide-receivers Griffith and Seth Coate (11) for touchdown completions, and the speed and power of Bastin makes him a prolific addition to the offense.

Though it has been subject to criticism, the defense is making improvements as the season progresses. The defense justly boasts exceptional talent; however, complications persist in respect to the ability of the athletes to play together.

"There is always room for improvement. We, as a team, strive for perfection. In order to be perfect, we need to make sure everyone just does his job, and continues to play as a team," Terrell said.

Its upcoming schedule consists of games against teams in the NHC such as DeKalb, Carroll, and Norwell. Though the intense competition may be daunting, the team remains focused throughout the season.

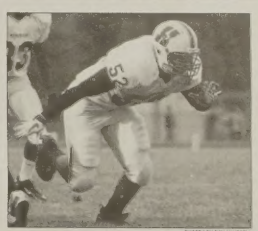
"We try to take one game at a time," said Terrell. "We cannot get ahead of ourselves because once you do you make yourself vulnerable to get beat."

This year, the team is trying to advance past sectionals for the first time since 2006. The team has lost to Snider in sectionals two out of the last three years; however, this season, the prospect of defeating Snider and make a run in the postseason appears probable.

"I honestly think we could go very far into the playoffs," Bastin said. "Our ultimate goal is to not only get there, but to be able to win the state title, and we believe we have a team that can do just that."

With a long time until a potential rematch against Snider, the team continues to prove their dominance in the NHC Conference to prepare for the postseason. With the offensive power established and the defense earning an intimidating reputation,

The Homecoming game tonight begins at 7pm, the attire is homecoming shirts and wild, wild west



Photos by Ben Mikesell

Top: Kicker Nolan McMahon (11) prepares to earn an extra point to add to Homestead's already leading score.
Far left: Jake Weber (12) stretches for extra yards as he gets tackled.
Above: Seth Coate (11) runs in a touch down for the Spartans at the game against Bellmont.
Left: Manasseh Miles (11) plays defensively to advance the ball.

Boy's tennis builds on struggle for success

By Haiden Steingass
Writer

The boys' tennis team is already mid-season and fighting for more conference game wins to top off its victories over New Haven and East Noble. With two critical losses on its home court, the team continues to strive for overall mental motivation and improvements in playing skills.

Past the point of general season games, the varsity team is finishing up conference matches and preparing for sectionals. The last two games against Dekalb (4-1) and Carroll (5-0) have left a negative impact on the team, which may hinder the team's confidence as the postseason nears. Though a consistent rival, the tennis team has never lost to Carroll before.

"It was devastating," Ryan Stephens (10) said. "It was a close match, but varsity and JV both lost."

Despite the fact that the team played its hardest, Carroll deserved the win. The defeat left both players and coaches in shock. A reputation for extremely strong players in previous years has put unneeded stress and high expectations on this year's team. Because the team has won all but two NHC championships since 1989, the boys are determined to survive the tough competition and attain their status despite this season's downfalls.

Coming up shortly is the match against rival Canterbury, who is ranked second in the city. It is extremely important that the team takes a win for its own personal pride, which will tremendously impact the team's performance at sectionals.

"We have to work on what we need to do better and take note of our strengths," Stephens said.

Having the same amount of wins as losses, the team struggles to get out of its neutral stance this season. The loss of eight strong seniors leaves the team with an overall young team, but the upperclassmen have realized the void they need to fill in order to progress.

"This year the team has been about building experience since the entire varsity team is new." Emmett Elizondo (10) said. "We all plan to work hard over the next year so we have a strong team for the next season."

With only a short amount of time before the season wraps up, the team is taking its efforts and endurance to the maximum level. The main goal is not only to win, but to prepare for a better team next year.

"We have the potential," Hussain Habib (10) said.

The only thing left to do is to take its potential to the next level.

Kyle Davis (12) backhands the ball in a return over the net during practice Monday afternoon.

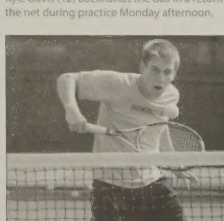


Photo by Ben Mikesell

POWDERPUFF GAME

The Powderpuff game was a flag football match between teams of girls.

Above: The boys, such as this brave man, were coaches and cheerleaders.
Below: The teams of girls competed ferociously in the football games.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RETROSPECT 1991

THE SUB GRUB

Every class would select a team of individuals that would do their best to consume a large sub sandwhich while racing the teams of opposing grades. During this particular Homecoming week, the senior class was able to emerge victorious from the Sub Grub and were glorified champions.

Homecoming week consisted of enjoyable festivities, energetic students 20 years ago

LAUREN PURLEE
Feature Editor

Homecoming. Twenty years ago Homecoming Week was a really big deal here. Suzette Bolio, Homecoming Queen for the class of 1991, looks back fondly on her class' festivities.

The backbone of the week's festivities was the cut-throat class war. All week long, students had the opportunity to compete in various challenges–some simple, some simply outrageous–and help score points for their grade.

The first challenge was just a competition to see which grade could get their designated halls of the school to look most spirited, but even that got heated when a janitor accidentally "cleaned up" what they thought was a mess in one of the Junior class' decorated hallways.

There was also a outdoor volleyball tournament and a Powderpuff football game. The Powderpuff game was always a student favorite, when the girls would play a game of football and the guys would either coach or cheer.

Other challenges were less traditional. There was a submarine sandwich eating competition called the Sub Grub, for which each class developed their own strategy to most efficiently get rid of the subs. For example, when one of their representatives failed to keep down all of the sandwiches he had consumed, the junior class stepped to his aide, slyly shoving pieces of his remaining subs into empty cups and cracks in the lunch tables. The seniors chose to take it slow and steady, and, when the juniors were disqualified, eventually won.

Perhaps the biggest event of the class war was the obstacle course. An improvement to the tricycle race of previous years, the obstacle course consisted of a tricycle race, running, wearing funny clothes, and searching for flags in a giant hot fudge sundae, and this is no dramatization,a giant hot fudge sundae–participants literally dove onto a Slip-and-Slide covered in the sticky chill of ice cream and syrup.

Ifthese class games were the backbone of the week, the heart could surely be found at the football game. There was a huge game-day pep rally, and kids reconvened after school at a bonfire before the game where a fire truck was on standby to ride around.

The students then went on to cheer for the football team, and at halftime the final class challenge was completed with the parade of the class floats. Each class chose a popular, current song to play as their float rode across the field–the junior class one with their "Another One Bites the Dust" float.

> "What a wonderful experience [it was]. I didn't realize how lucky I was at the time."
>
> **SUZETTE BOLIO ('91)**
> *Homecoming Queen of '91*

Following the parade, the court was called on to the field. Bolio was crowned with Paul Knipscheer, who was also named Powderpuff King earlier that week, as her King. The game finished out with the school's first Homecoming win in four years, and everyone went home that night looking forward to the dance that would be held following night.

Looking back on these memories, Bolio can hardly contain her enthusiasm before a wistful memory calls her to break into her class' chant from that fateful pep rally that took place a full two decades ago.

"What a wonderful experience [it was]," Bolio said. "I didn't realize how fortunate I was at the time. Homestead! Class of 91, we're the class of ninety-one yah, ray Homestead!"

VOLLEYBALL GAME

The first Homecoming volleyball tournament took place during this year. This event was open to teams of all classes and was held at courts next to the fire station.

Above: An athlete elevates to make a block during match play.

POST-GAME BONFIRE

After the football game, the students would meet at the school to enjoy a bonfire and rides on a fire truck. Of course, the fire truck was also there for safety precautions, too.

Above: Member of the football team celebrate their victory over Bellmont at the fire.

1991 THEN & NOW *homecoming* 2011

PHOTO COURTESY OF OLIVIA ROSS

MONDAY: PAJAMAS

The dress-up days commenced with a perennial favorite, the "Pajama Day," when students able to attend school pajamas, free of guilt.

Above: Kayla Lubkurt (12), Caroline Cooper (12), Maggie Butchko (12), Jillian Speck (12), and London Shannon (12) celebrate "PJ Day."

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

TUESDAY: DISNEY

For a relatively new dress-up day, "Disney Day" was a colassal success. The costumes included characters from a variety of movies from favorable classics to new hits.

Above: Jenny Riecke (11) puts together a superb outfit to represent *The Lion King*.

Lack of school-sponsored events, student enthusiasm leaves Homecoming week dull

JOE LAUGHLIN
Sports Editor

As Homecoming week is celebrated, students are disappointed with its anticlimactic passing.

"It just comes and goes every year," Anna Denning (12) said. "Nothing new or exciting happens."

The conventional idea of Homecoming week consists of five days full of unique activities exclusive to the occasion and a vibrant student body; however, students currently witness a dull school day experience matched with only a glimpse of school-spirit.

In its current state, Homecoming week includes five themed dress-up days, during which students come to school clad in costumes. This week, the themes included "Pajama Day," "Disney Day," "Pirate Day," "Back to the Future Day," and "Wild, Wild West Day." Though people do participate in the dress-up days, these individuals account for a small fraction of the student body.

"Those of us who dress up are doing our best to make Homecoming week more enjoyable, but we are by no means the majority of the student body," dress-up day participant Molly Ray (11) said.

Though dress-up days are enjoyable, the lack of school-sponsored events during Homecoming weeks frustrates the students. The students simply want an enjoyable time to interact with one another.

"We want something fun to do as a student body, whether it is a sports competition or a unique game show-like activity," Ray said.

While 20 years ago the school days and nights were packed with competitions and events, the current event line-up for Homecoming week has dwindled to a sliver of its previous size.

The pep-session is now the lone during school activity related to Homecoming. This year, students will assemble in the football stadium to watch their peers and teachers participate in entertaining stunts.

Only one after school event remains available to the students this year, the Homecoming dance, which follows the football game. No competitions between classes occur. While parallels of the previous Homecoming week events appear later in the school year during Just Because Week, this week stands to be relatively uneventful - literally.

With a lack of excitement being provided to them, students continue to express perpetual gloom as they occupy the school.

While students justly blame the insignificance of Homecoming on the deprivation of activities and entertainment, this accusation is only true to an extent. The students are missing an essential component that made the Homecoming week of 20 years ago so enjoyable; the students need to take the personal initiative to raise morale.

Only by expressing school-spirit and finding new ways to celebrate Homecoming week may this week encompass as much enjoyment as it has in the past.

In 1991, the junior class determined that the song "Another One Bites the Dust," justly suited its personality. This student body was fervently involved within and aggressively supportive of the school.

After 20 years have passed, the students do not appear to be as enthusiastic as their precedents; however, this claim may not be the case. Homecoming is a celebration of a new school year and sets the precedent for the rest of the year. To experience the enjoyable times that the students did 20 years ago, the students must emulate their predecessors' enthusiasm. This practice relies solely on the students. The question is: which song will represent this student body?

WEDNESDAY: PIRATES

Students clad with hooks and eye-patches showed their support for "Pirate Day," which is another relatively new dress-day.

Examples: Students may attempt to capture the rogue personality of Captain Jack Sparrow in *The Pirates of the Carribean*.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

THURSDAY: FUTURE

The "Back to the Future Day" allowed students to wear futuristic attire. Students expressed their creativity with different costumes, such as robotic figures.

Above: Teachers join in the festivities as they sport their detailed costumes.

THE FRIDAY LINE-UP:

1) SCHOOL: The dress-up theme for Friday is a "Wild, Wild West Day," in which students are encouraged to dress like their cowboys and other related characters; however, blatant violations of the dress cord are prohibited. There will be a pep-session held toward the end of the school day, during which the students will sit in the football stadium to watch the event. All classes will be invited to the pep-session, and the entertainment will include a variety of events.

2) FOOTBALL GAME: The football game this Friday should result in a decisive victory for the Spartans, if the rest of the season has been any indicator. With an offense led by quarterback Zach Terrell, running back Grayson Bastin and wide receiver Seth Coate, the game could very well be another blowout. The team has been averaging over 50 points a game, and has won with a significant margin in all of their previous games during this season.

3) DANCE: The homecoming court will be announced tonight during halftime at the football game. Additionally, the dance, which shares the Wild, Wild West theme, will begin at the conclusion of the football game, and will end at 11:30 PM. Students are advised to remember the dress code, and also to remember that the homecoming shirts are not to be cut or altered before the dance. Shirts cost $10, and can be purchased at lunch.

FRIDAY: WILD WEST

This dress-up day is another unique theme; students may wear attire of the old Western folk, without the possession of toy guns or other distracting material.

Examples: Cowboy boots, vests, old fashioned clothing

the SPARTANA

NEWS Homecoming 2011 brought new experiences like an outdoor pep session, which is reviewed though pictures. **2**

OPINION The Editorial Board praises and critique the sports teams' work at raising money for a cure for breast cancer. **3**

LIFE Three social networking sites are evaluated for efficiency as chatrooms by different students and the Spartana's staff. **4**

SPORTS Girls' golf team finished their season with a trip to state. Although ended fast, their season was successful in scores. **7**

FEATURE Football season is welcomed by many students as a chance to visit college friends and watch a main sport in the fall. **8**

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Cars in senior lot violate policy regarding grade

By Ryan Boylan
Opinion Co-Editor

Last week, Sophomore and Junior drivers that have been illicitly parking in the Senior lot received an unpleasant surprise. While most student drivers have been accustomed to administrators' negligence concerning the parking lots, a recent officer crackdown has made an example for those planning to break the rules.

The actual parking policy has changed very little from last year, leaving little room for confusion on students' behalf. While the three lots used to be unofficially divvied up into the Sophomore, Junior, and Senior lots, there is now only a general lot and a Senior lot. But because it is still against policy for Juniors and Sophomores to park in the Senior lot, the only problem that has really grown lies with the level of enforcement..

"Since Officer Herriott has taken over as the liaison officer for Homestead, lot enforcement has cracked down severely," Nathan Brophy (11) said. "It has really been creating a frustrating situation for most students that I've talked to. But the fact that so many kids are blatantly disregarding the incredibly ridiculous parking system we have here at Homestead should show that things need to be changed."

And many of the problems with the newly increased enforcement are not only due to students' rebellious tendencies, but also alleged inconsistencies in the rules in the parking policy.

"One of the biggest problems with parking is that you have to pay $35 a year for a space in the lot, which seems to me like a pretty manipulative business practice," said Brophy. "Not even the average workplace makes an employee pay to park. Most people you ask aren't beaming with excitement to come to school, work on assignments, and earn no pay for doing it; so why should they be expected to pay to show up? They're just taking advantage of students' excitement to drive

SEE 'PARKING,' PAGE 2

BRIEFS

STUDENT BLOOD DRIVE
Sign up to donate blood on Friday, Oct. 21 will take place today during lunch. Students must be 7 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and need to register during a free period.

VISITING COLLEGES
Several colleges will be sending representatives in upcoming days. Students need to register in Student Services and pick up a College Visitation pass at least one day prior to the visit, if they wish to attend. On Monday, Albion and Grace Colleges will be visiting, and on Wednesday, Ivy Tech Community College will be at the school. Additionally, on Wednesday, I.P.F.W will have a Collegiate Connection for students who plan on taking a Higher Ed class during second semester.

Faculty member passes away last month

Gloria Junk remembered as friend, leader, mother by coworkers

By Tori Barnard
News Editor

Long-time faculty member Gloria Junk recently passed away on Thursday, September 22.

Junk was a member of the faculty for 18 years. She worked in a variety of positions including- receptionist in the front office, secretary for the discipline office, secretary for the principal and most recently as school registrar.

Although much of her work was done behind-the-scenes, Junk had a great impact on students through her passion for the school and hard work.

"She would do whatever it took to get the job done, sometimes working until midnight," Assistant Principal Dianne Moake, who worked with Junk while she was principal, said. "Because I had her, as a leader of the building, I was more effective."

Over the course of her many years as a member of the faculty, Junk built strong relationships with many of her co-workers.

"She was not only someone I worked with but a best friend to me," Moake said.

Junk would often bring her co-workers coffee and scones from Espresso Gallery whenever she thought they needed a boost. She often delivered these pick-me-ups to Moake while she was under the pressure of being principal.

"On Fridays, we would celebrate the week by swinging by Espresso Gallery," Moake said. "We would always pick up a coffee for each other if one of us was having a hard day."

Junk enjoyed going out to dinner with her friends and co-workers, guidance secretary Cindy Fitt, vendor clerk Janet Gould and former school registrar Phyllis Nelson, who also passed away last year.

"Mrs. Junk usually gave good advice and was always ready to lend an ear to those who needed a shoulder to lean on or just needed a friend to talk to," Gould said.

SEE 'JUNK,' PAGE 2

Police dog training brings unexpected protection to parking lots

By Laura Zeng
Copy Editor

School resource dogs, popularly referred to as drug dogs, from other high schools are currently being trained in the parking lot. This situation is a temporary measure, and a permanent school resource dog will once again be on campus.

The drug dogs that are presently using the parking lot as a training ground come a couple times every week. The visits are unannounced and are used to keep student drivers safe. The dogs will also run through the school building during an unannounced lock down drill. This measure provides Homestead with the benefit of having a drug dog on campus and also provides other high schools with a training area for their drug dogs.

"The canine officers go into a depression when they don't work," Assistant Principal Jeff Kintz said. "This is a great opportunity for other dogs and officers, and Homestead still has drug dogs present."

> "The dog's primary purpose is to act as a deterrent [...] alleviate drug trafficking in school and is a nice way to break the ice when talking to students."
>
> **INGRID HERRIOTT**
> *Resource Officer*

Last year, school resource officer Jeremy Tinkle left for a new position in law enforcement and his school resource dog, Caymen, retired. This year, the new school resource officer Ingrid Herriott does not work with a drug dog; however, Herriott has confirmed that she plans on training a new dog in the spring and summer of 2012. Once fully trained, the dog will be on campus during the 2012-2013 school year.

The dog will be trained to detect drugs and weapons and will also be trained to track missing students during emergencies. Herriott describes the dogs as "extremely effective" and a "great community policing tool."

SEE 'DRUG DOG,' PAGE 2

school police dog training brings up questions of if we need our own
man's best FRIEND
BEST IN SHOW
BLOODHOUND
odor specific ID, tracking evidence
LABRADOR RETRIEVER
sniffs out bombs, drugs for officers
ARGENTINE DOGO
officer protection, sniffs out drugs
BEAGLE
sniffs out drugs, bombs, food
GERMAN SHEPHERD
officer protection, sniffs out drugs, evidence

Hanita Epstein wins award for work teaching local children bike safety

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

By Laura Zweig
Copy Editor

Hanita Epstein (11) received the Health Care Hero Award, an honor given by Business Weekly annually, for her community service project teaching about bicycle safety.

Epstein's project teaches parents and children alike about the need for bicycle safety in order to avoid accidents and provide children with safe forms of exercise.

"I set up obstacles and fit their helmets and teach them the rules of the road so they avoid unnecessary ER visits and curb childhood obesity," Epstein said.

Furthermore, she adjusts the children's bikes to the proper setting for safety. Epstein hopes to inspire the children to share their newfound awareness with friends and family.

Katherine Troutman (11) was one of several students Epstein asked to help her with the bike safety presentation.

"I think that people responded to the program. All of the kids enjoyed it and learned a lot. They were all smiling when it was over," Troutman, whose job was to fill out certificates with participants' names on them and run the raffle, said.

Troutman compliments the program, citing its effect on the

SEE 'EPSTEIN,' PAGE 2

Show Choir performs for statewide superintendent gathering

By Priya Parikh
Copy Editor

Last Thursday, all superintendents of Indiana were invited visit Southwest Allen County Schools for their annual meeting. The superintendent meeting rotates year to year, and this year SACS's superintendent, Mr. Yager, hosted the event. Class Royale, the Homestead Chamber Ensemble and the Jazz Ensemble preformed during the meeting to provide entertainment for the members.

> "[...] This little concert was a great opportunity to showcase Homestead's vocal and instrumental talent."
>
> **MICHAEL BIENZ (12)**
> *Class Royale Member*

At a meeting held in the community room, following the Jazz Ensemble's performance, the members of Class Royale sang two songs from the choir's fall concert repertoire. In addition to the show choir's performance, the Homestead Chamber Ensemble, a ten member choral group, sang a spiritual gospel song called "Filla Me Up." Class Royale sang two of the three songs they will perform for their fall concert on October 18, "Ave Maria" and "The

SEE 'SHOW CHOIR,' PAGE 2

▸▸ EPSTEIN CONTINUED FROM 1

Fort Wayne community.

"The whole purpose is to make sure kids are safe in Allen County and the world when they ride bikes," Troutman said. "We will all be safer because of Hanita Epstein."

Epstein won the Health Care Hero Award in part because of her love for giving back to the community. She was nominated by two people, one of whom was guidance counselor Rosemary Bobish.

"I nominated Hanita because I was so impressed with all the work she had done without ever asking for recognition," Bobish said. "I was often surprised when I learned she was involved in yet another community activity without making the school aware."

Epstein has always been interested in the health care field, so it was natural that she would choose to focus her efforts in that area when giving back.

"I want to be a doctor because I like helping people and treating people," Epstein said. "I want to make people healthy."

Pursuing her goal to become a doctor, she is currently enrolled in her third year of biomed class and believes in the importance of studying and hard work. Also, volunteering in and studying the medical field validates her interests in one day becoming a doctor.

"I volunteer to make sure I like [the medical field]," Epstein said.

With medical school in mind, it seems Epstein has a bright future in the medical field.

"My goal is to make an impact on the lives of my patients and the medical community," Epstein said.

When searching for Health Care Hero Award recipients, Business Weekly wanted members of the community who are improving health care in Northeast Indiana and Northwestern Ohio. Bobish felt Epstein fit the description.

"Hanita is an example to adults, not just students," Bobish said. "She is empathetic and volunteers with the elderly to the youth of the community without the expectation of recognition or reward."

Albeit her most well-known project, spreading knowledge about bicycle safety is not the only way Epstein assists her community. She also volunteers in a plethora of other projects, which include helping in the Cancer Center at Lutheran Hospital and aiding workers at Red Cross.

Perhaps her most hands-on project is a joint effort with Emily Muha (11) called Harmonious Pursuits. Epstein founded this project which involves both she and Muha playing the piano and singing at nursing homes.

Epstein hopes to continue expanding her projects and gaining the attention of a wider audience.

"I'm planning to implement the bike safety program into the local school systems so that it will be in the gym curriculum," Epstein said.

Bobish appreciates the effect Epstein has on the community and health care field.

"Educating children about bicycle safety affects everyone since I cannot imagine anyone who does not believe that children are our most valuable resource and that their safety is of the utmost concern," Bobish said.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: A rumor concerning the two hour delay policy has been circulating that speculates for every certain number of two hour delays, one day of school must be made up.

Status: False - "This is the first I have heard of this - I believe it must be a rumor," Assistant Principal Steve Lake said.

Students feel that two hour delays are necessary.

Two hour delays are helpful to countless students for a multitude of reasons such as finishing up homework due that day or catching up on sleep.

"Two hour delays help me catch up on sleep from the night before, which is always helpful for the day to come," Jessica Rakoczy (10) said.

Delays are necessary for the prime reason of safety. Safety of students, parents and administrators alike is always necessary on their way to school. Poor weather conditions can be dangerous for not only student and parent drivers, but for bus drivers as well.

Countless students and parents also question whether two hour delays are productive or if the day should simply be cancelled.

"Two hour delay days can still be productive and for me they are," Laura Laudeman (10) said.

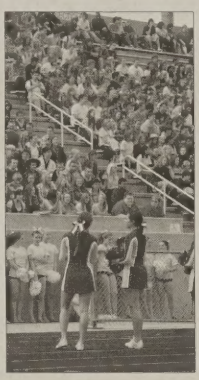
The decision to delay school is up to the superintendent.

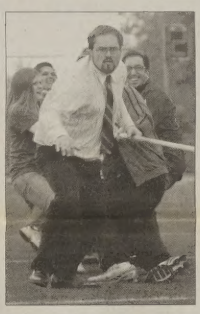
"It may become necessary to cancel school or delay starting time because of inclement weather, which may pose a health or safety factor for students traveling to school," according to the student handbook.

If the weather is horrible and students cannot get to school without possibly causing harm to themselves or others, the school day may be cancelled or delayed depending on how awful the condition is.

HOMECOMING PEP SESSION 2011

photos by ben mikesell





Above: Homecoming court members pose for a photo opportunity. Top Right: The cheerleaders work to pep up the students. Bottom Right: Frankie Zirille (12) emcees the event. Right: Substitute teacher Mr. Nicholson helps the faculty in a tug-of-war competition. Below: Charlotte Root (12) and Abbie Mandelbaum (11) perform with the dance team.

BY MEGAN CATER
Writer

Instead of having the pep session in the gym as in previous years, this year it was held in the football stadium at two o'clock on Friday. The cheerleaders began the session trying to get the crowd energetic and excited, but the students were not amused.

The next event was a dance competition between different students in fall sports. Two athletes from each fall sport went to the middle of the field and showed off their dance skills for the school. The winners of this dance competition were the athletes from the Boys' Cross Country team.

Homecoming court was then announced, and all members were supported by the students.

A tug of war between grades was a new way to involve more people at the pep session. Male and female students were chosen from each grade to compete in a tug of war competition. The winner of the tug of war was the Junior Class, who even competed against teachers. Overall, the pep session was a success, and Student Government will try to have pep sessions outside from now on.

"I thought it went really well, and I think the new idea of it being outside was awesome," emcee of the pep session Stephen Libbing (12) said.

▸▸ JUNK CONTINUED FROM 1

Both Fitt and Gould have fond memories of their time spent with Junk.

"Gloria had a big heart," Fitt said.

Junk's motto was to always put students first. She worked diligently to help students at all times and took pleasure in working with them.

"Her favorite part about working at Homestead was helping students with whatever they needed," Fitt said. "They are the reason we are here."

Gould remembers Junk's commitment to maintaining students as her first priority, even in times of distress and distraction.

"When the terrorist attacks occurred on 9/11, she was really concerned on how this uproar was going to affect the students who were taking the ISTEP+ tests," Gould said.

Outside of school, Junk was passionate about spending time with her family and her three children, all of whom attended Homestead. She was also involved as a band-mom while her children were in school.

"Her biggest focus was her family," Moake said.

Part of Junk's legacy is the passion she had for working to make Homestead the best it could be.

"She really cared about Homestead, wanted the best for it and believed in it," Moake said.

Junk's impact on the lives of the multitude of faculty members she befriended will always be prevalent.

"Mrs. Junk was a good friend to many people and she will truly be missed," Gould said. "RIP our friend, Gloria Junk."

▸▸ DRUG DOGS CONTINUED FROM 1

"The dog's primary purpose is to act as a deterrent," Herriott said. "Its presence helps alleviate drug trafficking in school and is a nice way to break the ice when talking to students. It puts students at ease."

The student response to no longer having a drug dog is largely apathetic. Many students believe that the drug dog's presence does not affect them and that the only thing that's unsafe in the parking lot is the traffic.

"I don't worry about [dogs] because I don't do that stuff," Morgan Gascoyne (12) said. "I feel extremely safe at Homestead. It's driving in and out of the school that's a challenge."

Many students didn't notice that there were drug dogs from other schools in the lot. Furthermore, many miss having a dog in the school.

"For me, nothing has changed, but the one thing that's bad is that Mr. Potter can't have his drug dog lesson," Samara Reiter (12) said. "Otherwise, I've never noticed the drug dog in the parking lot before, so I don't miss it too much...because other people's drugs have never seemed to be a threat to my personal safety."

Homestead was the first school in Indiana to have a full-time drug dog as part of a push to prevent drug use. The program, called the K-9 Interdiction program, was developed by both the Southwest Allen County School Corporation and the Allen County Police Department. All student drivers must consent to vehicle searches done by drug dogs, and students found with illegal drugs will be punished accordingly.

▸▸ PARKING CONTINUED FROM 1

by charging them."

"Just because you are older does not give you the right to exclude a certain group of people from parking. What Homestead is doing is basically the definition of discrimination. It should be first come first serve. Class title and rank should have nothing to do with our parking institution here at Homestead."

The idea of controlling the lot by grade is considered to be a negative by underclassmen.

"It's totally ridiculous that we have "Senior passes," said Brophy. "I choose to not follow these absolutely ridiculous and oppressive rules because we have no need for them. I am sorry I don't want the school getting more money for having a fee to park. I am sorry I feel that we have a corrupt system here operating at Homestead. One might compare these crack downs to England's tyrannical rule after years of salutary neglect in New England. Officer Herriott just strolls on through the lots taking down cars as she goes, not caring for the students who drive them at all because she wants to prove herself as a competent officer. I don't remember the last time Officer Tinkle gave a parking violation."

> "If I wanted to go out every day and put tickets on cars, I could because its such a prevalent problem."
>
> **INGRID HERRIOTT**
> *Student Resource Officer*

But faculty and administration still support the parking policy.

"The seniors have been here the longest and deserve the privilege of parking closest to the building in the Senior lot," Ingrid Harriott, Resource Officer, said.

And other students see a compromise between the two extremes.

"If sophomores and juniors are parking in the senior lot and they take the best spots then that's not fair," said David Strzelecki (11). "But if they are parking away from the doors and giving the good spots that rightfully belong to the seniors and they stay out of the way then they don't deserve a violation."

Regardless, the problem of the parking lot is not the highest priority for the student resource officer.

"If I wanted to go out every day and put tickets on cars, I could because its such a prevalent problem," Herriott said. "But being inside the school with the students is my priority and I don't have time to do it as much as I want."

▸▸ SHOW CHOIR CONTINUED FROM 1

Battle of Jerico."

"Class Royale and the Chamber Ensemble have been preparing these songs for the fall concert when they started practicing, and it is exciting that we had another chance to sing the songs," Michael Bienz (12), Class Royale member, said.

As usual, the preparation for these shows has been intensive. However, some members took this opportunity as practice for their upcoming competitions.

"We had been working on the two stand-and-sing songs that we preformed since the beginning of the school year," Sahand Emamian (12), Class Royale member, said.

Although much preparation went into the performance for the superintendent meeting, more of the practice was directed toward the competition performances later in the school year.

"Mr. Shaw told us about this performance early in September; however, we have been focusing more towards our fall concert than this performance." Said?

As the superintendent meeting had not been hosted at Homestead before, it was show choir's first time participating in the event.

"This [superintendent performance] has not been done in the past simply because our superintendent has not had the opportunity to host - I believe it goes to a different superintendent each time they all meet," Erica Olivero (12), Class Royale member, said. "However, I felt that it was a great experience."

Participants enjoyed the opportunity to perform and demonstrate their skills not only for Superintendent Yager but for superintendents all over the state.

"Overall, I think that this little concert was a great opportunity to showcase Homestead's vocal and instrumental talent to the educational leaders of the entire state," Bienz said.

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Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

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Hoosiers Lose Rights, 3

New Indiana Supreme Court decision changes the way Indiana residents have the right to interact with police officers in their own homes.

Photo from www.in.gov

LEFT AND WRITE:

HPV vaccination equates to basic public health measure; saves numerous lives for minimal cost

BY RYAN BOYLAN
Opinion Co-Editor

In a recent GOP debate between candidates Rick Perry and Michelle Bachmann, Perry was accused of violating parents' and women's rights, involving himself in "crony capitalism" and abusing his executive power as Texas Governor. While originally centered on the morality and sexual liberality of the controversy, debate has quickly degenerated into nearly irrelevant discussion about Perry's campaign budget and the action's contradiction to the small government ideals of the GOP.

In 2007, Perry implemented an executive order mandating the vaccination of all sixth grade girls in the state with Gardasil, meant to prevent the spread of certain types of Human Papiliomavirus (HPV), a leading cause of cervical cancer.

Various parents were up in arms about the moral boundaries that were walked on by Perry's mandate, but their disapproval was largely unfounded. While it is argued that the order was a violation of parents' rights to decide which vaccinations their children will and will not receive, this was certainly not a new dilemma considering that all 50 states required and still require certain vaccinations for children entering public school. Not to mention that a section of the order allowed parents to request a "conscientious objection" from the vaccination.

Conservative politicians also responded negatively to the order, mainly because of Perry's complete disregard for the legislature in making his decision. However, because parents were given the option to opt-out of having their children given the vaccination, the order served more as a catalyst for the prevention of cervical cancer than a restriction on parent's rights to make decisions for their children. And because the order was so flexible and loosely enforced, it inflicted no damage to the authority of the legislature either.

Another concern among religiously conservative parents was that having their children immunized for HPV would encourage sexual promiscuity at an early age by vaccinating against a virus transmitted by sexual contact. But the marginal decrease in the hysteria concerning STD's is no reason to leave a child unprotected from a potentially life-threatening disease. Also, since it is recommended that the vaccination be given several years before sexual activity to be fully effective, administering it to girls when they enter the sixth grade seems logical.

And to exacerbate the situation, Perry received a donation of $6,000 from Merck, the company that produces Gardisil, for mandating the immunization of the drug. Opponents of Perry saw the gesture as a questionable transaction because the decision was made so rashly without the support of lawmakers.

By obfuscating Perry's motives for executing a completely unrestrictive and innocuous executive order, Michelle Bachmann has distracted debate from issues that are relevant and has wrongly skewed the tractable public's idolization in her favor. HPV vaccination is a measure that saves the lives of a great number of American citizens at a cost that is very minimal. Campaigning against a basic, life-saving preventative measure is a counterproductive and damaging ideal on which to run a campaign.

Neccesity of mandatory vaccinations in Texas comes under fire in campaign

Requiring HPV vaccines another example of unneccesary big-government intrusion by state

BY SHANNON NYCUM
Writer

No one's body belongs to the government, and Americans have the right to make their own decisions. Unfortunately, Texas Governor Rick Perry made it mandatory in 2007 that all sixth grade girls were to receive the vaccination for the human papillomavirus (also known as HPV), which is linked to cervical cancer. During a recent Republican debate, Congresswoman Michele Bachmann criticized Perry for mandating the vaccine, saying it was a "government injection through executive order."

Bachmann indicated that the injection caused mental retardation after she had encountered a lady from Florida, whose young daughter had taken the vaccine and soon after became mentally ill.

The American Academy of Pediatrics responded after Bachmann's speech was given and stated that Bachmann's claim on the negative effects of the vaccine was false. There is no scientific evidence specifying that the vaccination is dangerous in any way. Over 35 million doses of the HPV vaccine have been given, and there is yet to be a safety hazard. The vaccine has been tested extensively, and it is "strongly recommended" for females from ages 9-26.

The HPV vaccine seems to be flawless at this point, but it has an ugly expensive price with one dose priced at $130. In addition, those who have received the vaccination have considered it "ouchy," and countless people worry about the pain.

Perry stated that he regrets his decision but defended himself by affirming that he tried to protect young women from cervical cancer. The grounds for his intentions are well-founded because according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in ten sixth graders in a large Texas school district have had sex. Giving them the vaccine could have helped them prevent getting cervical cancer.

Perry was supposedly only motivated to mandate this vaccine because he received campaign money from Merck, the pharmaceutical company that makes the HPV injections called Gardisil.

Regardless of Perry's intentions, it is not the government's role to mandate any type of vaccine or other health-related items. Getting the HPV vaccine is a personal decision. Since the vaccination does not prevent women from getting cancer, some people may not have any interest in receiving the injection.

Bachmann was right for calling Perry out on the situation, but she should have had more knowledge of the vaccination before criticizing Perry. However, Perry is not without fault. He should not have taken the money from Merck and quid pro quo mandated the vaccination for all sixth grade girls in his state of Texas. By requiring the vaccination, he called his motivations into question and legislated an unpopular policy.

▸▸6000

dollar donation, received by Perry campaign from Merck Pharmaceutical company, the producer of the Gardasil HPV vaccination.

Government-sactioned killing still morally wrong

Finality of execution causes problems when innocence of charged is called into question

BY SARAH BADE
Writer

Though the terrible acts committed upon Troy Davis ended with the legal system, the debate still continues as to whether or not Davis was innocent.

Davis was accused of the 1989 shooting of Mark MacPhail, an off-duty Georgia police officer. Some believe that Davis was innocent and that he did not deserve the death penalty. However, in either case, he was killed for being a killer.

Killing one for murdering another is morally unjustified for both parties. Murdering a person is wrong, but killing the murderer makes the executioner just as bad, or even worse, than the original criminal. In a sense, the executioner is committing the same crime as the murderer. The system says crimes are wrong for the majority of individuals; however, for certain other individuals, the act is all right or even recognized as justice. It is amazing that the justice system allows such hypocrisy.

Execution is immoral in the first place, but if that practice is going to be performed, then physical evidence and eye witness accounts need to be presented to convince the jury beyond a reasonable doubt that the accused is indeed guilty and deserves the ultimate punishment of death. In Davis's first case however, the physical evidence consisted of ballistic evidence, bloody clothing, and DNA-typing. Yet the ballistic evidence labeled as the murder weapon, Davis's gun, was missing, and Davis's mother claimed the police threatened to kick her door down unless she permitted their entrance into her home to attain the bloody clothing. These actions would then suggest that the police obtained this evidence illegally.

> "At the Davis protests, citizens continued to say, in short, that if there is too much doubt in a case then the person in question should have more time so that evidence can be presented to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the person is either innocent or guilty."
>
> **SARAH BADE**
> *Writer*

In the Casey Anthony case, a Florida woman was acquitted in August of killing her infant daughter, even though more coherent evidence pointed to her, unlike the evidence that put Davis on death row. The high-profile cases have been portrayed as injustice by the justice system, and have been compared likewise, though the cases cannot and should not be compared.

The Davis case has been extremely focused on how, even though over a hundred years have passed since slavery has been abolished, racism is still a contributing factor in the court systems. However, in conjunction with the Anthony case, race was barely a factor that was brought to light. Though both cases have proven a lack of confidence in the court system, the cases cannot and should not be compared.

At the Davis protests, citizens continued to say, in short, that if there is too much doubt in a case then the person in question should have more time so that evidence can be presented to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the person is either innocent or guilty. A person can be put to death at a later date, but a person cannot be put to death and then later be brought back to life if proven innocent.

facebook crawl

Every Sunday night Facebook Expert Jacob Cook will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.

Question: "What is something that you would never want others to know about you?"

Amani Martin (10) ▸▸ "I still watch Spongebob."

Zach McFarland (11) ▸▸ "I got nothing to hide brother. I'm Cali Swag."

Dan Veerkamp (12) ▸▸ "I have two kids."

Noah Ferrise (10) ▸▸ "I enjoy watching Dora the Explorer with my mom on the weekends."

PJ Bojrab (9) ▸▸ "I really need to think about this."

Fawaz Hasnain (12) ▸▸ "Too many to count."

Spencer Amborn (12) ▸▸ "Uhhh... swag."

More diverse options required for school charity

It seems like we are frequently reminded of the terrifying toll of cancer. Just recently, Apple's hipster-beloved CEO, Steve Jobs, passed away after a lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer. Additionally, almost everyone in America has been impacted by a personal relation suffering from cancer.

This makes the frequent school-initiated fundraisers to fight cancer all the more positive. Any money that goes toward the eradication of such an awful disease is for a positive cause. The destruction of cancer is frightening, and students are just to fight cancer.

Such school-initiated groups include the dance team's sale of pink bracelets as a fundraiser for breast cancer. Moreover, the dress-up theme of the student body at the most recent football game was a pink-out; similarly, the volleyball team sported pink jerseys at a home game against TEAMZ.

The mobilization of students to fight cancer is applaudable and respectable; however, it appears as though the student body supports the fight against only one cancer - breast cancer.

The narrow focus of the student body leaves a deficiency of support for those struggling against other types of cancer. Students would certainly be willing to donate money to fight against other forms of cancer, yet the organizations at the school currently do not give them sufficient opportunity to do so.

While the existing focus is solely on breast cancer, students could have their philanthropic work benefit a wider array of people.

By collecting money for other types of cancer, in addition to breast cancer, organizations at the school would not only raise money, but would also raise awareness for people suffering from different types of cancer.

Organizations are still doing a generous, charitable act by raising money to fight breast cancer, but they could easily have a wider focus.

THE ED BOARD

Ryan Boylan *Joe Laughlin*
Mary Distler *Connor O'Hara*
Joe Janizek *Clair Pranger*

{The Bottom Line} School could allow donations for other types of cancers as well.

Recent removal of rights by Indiana Supreme Court harms Hoosier liberties

BY CLAIR PRANGER
Opinion Co-Editor

A new and appalling ruling from the state Supreme Court has redefined the rights of Indiana residents. According to a recent revisit to a case, four of the five justices upheld the decision of an earlier ruling that people do not have the right to use force to resist police officers who illegally enter their homes. The court stated that rather than using brute force, citizens should solve the issue through a civil lawsuit.

The statement has not only shaken the faith many Hoosiers have placed in the criminal justice system, but it also casts off one of the key principles upon which America was founded. The Fourth Amendment specifically guarantees a citizen's right to be "secure... against unreasonable search and seizures," but the Indiana Supreme Court's ruling has effectively made this right null and void.

The court's ruling stemmed from a case that occurred in May 2011, in which a Vanderburgh County man who, on being questioned for a domestic violence disturbance, physically engaged a police officer who had tried to enter his home. In the initial 3-2 ruling, the court stated that the man did not have the right to resist the officer.

If the court is willing to sacrifice these rights, then Indiana is no longer fit to be part of the United States. If a police officer has reason to suspect illegal goings-on in the private residence of a suspect, he can only enter when a valid warrant has been obtained through legal means.

The court's ruling did not sit well with many Hoosiers, who claimed that the court was, in a sense, allowing police access to private property without a legitimate, legal reason.

"Our earlier opinion was not intended to, and did not, change that existing law about the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, and papers against unreasonable searches and seizures," Justice Stephen David said on the court's second ruling of the issue.

Regardless of the fact that the court is aware they are stepping on toes, the key word in David's clarification is "unreasonable." The entirety of the ruling hinges upon that one word, for the exact definition of "unreasonable" is a gray area in this context.

Perhaps the Fourth Amendment should be reevaluated and amended to remove the word "unreasonable" from it, for there is no guarantee that, much like the "necessary and proper" clause found in Article I of the Constitution, it will not be misinterpreted to serve those that could stand to gain from a looser definition.

To stand by, effectively helpless, while law enforcement officials illegally search a premises thought to be of private domain is a nightmare to most Americans and should not be tolerated. It is an intrusion on a citizen's right to privacy and can only be construed as an unmistakably un-American act. Illegal search and seizure, be it reasonable or not, has no place in the American justice system.

Hoosiers should and must protest this act of tyranny with all the force of a people suppressed. Americans have come too far in fighting for and securing their liberties to become complacent now. For if the Indiana Supreme Court is to allow illegal search and seizure, it may as well throw out due process and any other distinctly American ideals that uphold democracy.

Homecoming king, queen reflect on winning competition, spirit week, various experiences throughout high school

With the annual homecoming game and homecoming dance comes the crowning of the Homecoming King and Homecoming Queen. This year, students chose Katie Lehman and Daymon Osborn to become Homestead's royalty. But despite their win, under their crowns, Daymon and Katie are different people.

Spartana: First off, congratulations on winning Homecoming King and Homecoming Queen! But everyone is wondering: how do you two feel about winning?

Lehman: When I won, I was completely in shock. At first, I didn't even know it was me because they said "Katherine" and I am usually called Katie, so I was thinking, Katherine? Who's Katherine? Do we even have a Katherine on court?, and by the time they said, "Lehman" I was like, "Oh my goodness, it's me!"

Osborn: For me, it was pretty cool. I honestly didn't think I would win, and when I did, I was both thankful and surprised.

Spartana: As you know, the same week you were crowned was Spirit Week. What was your favorite spirit week outfit?

Lehman: I would say my favorite spirit week day was Disney Day. I dressed up as Anastasia.

Spartana: That's a good movie! How about you, Daymon?

Osborn: Well, throughout the week, I come in 5th period, so I wasn't really able to participate in Spirit Week, but looking around at people's outfits, Pajama Day was my favorite because it's funny to see my friends in pajamas.

Spartana: Speaking of favorites, what would you two say your favorite moment of high school is?

Lehman: Oh boy, I would have to say, in general, going to all the basketball games when I was a junior with a big group of upperclassmen. After the game, we would go to dinner and hang out, which was really fun. Also, I went to prom junior year with a guy, and that was the best dance I've ever been too.

Osborn: I would say every basketball season; it's fun to get to know some of the guys better and to just enjoy basketball.

Spartana: Anything else you would like the Spartana to know about either of you?

Lehman: I hate to see people sad and to see people have bad days, so I try to help people out as much as I can and turn their frown upside down! You know, try to make them happy and try to help them have a good day.

Osborn: Well, I enjoy being a part of Homestead High School and being a part of the senior class.

King Daymon Osborn and Queen Katie Lehman after their big win at the Homecoming game.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKSELL

The Show Goes On

Returning TV shows satisfy returning fans, premiering series attract multiple viewers

AARIKA MANKEY
Writer

TV's most watched and anticipated shows return for another thrilling season this fall. Whether it's cheesy teenage drama, reality shows for the green, medical drama, vampires or singing and dancing, everyone is tuning in for a glimpse of the hottest shows on television. The most popular TV series this fall include Grey's Anatomy, The Office, Glee, The Big Bang Theory, Castle, Survivor, Vampire Diaries, the Amazing Race, Two and a Half Men and Hawaii Five-O.

The popular show Glee returned for a season premiere on September 20. Many familiar faces of the main cast, including a club director and Spanish teacher, cheerleading coach, guidance counselor, and eight group members of the "Glee Club" returned for this third season. Glee centers around a student-run club dealing with typical teenage drama, relationships and social issues. The group also pulls together to perform and compete as a show choir.

> "I like Glee because they add a modern twist to classical Broadway songs and yet, they also sing popular songs, so Glee is enjoyable for any age group."
>
> **JENNA HOUCHIN (10)**
> *Glee Fan*

To "Gleek"-y fans, the bouncy and lively attitude of the Glee cast makes for a great performance both on set and on stage.

"Glee is great because it's fun and upbeat and the cast sings a majority of popular songs. I love the way it ties in the many aspects of show choir, giving others insight into what it's all about," Haile Ritchie (10), said.

Glee has gained widespread popularity for its show choir-twist on several popular songs.

"I like Glee because they add a modern twist to classical Broadway songs and yet, they also sing popular songs, so Glee is enjoyable for any age group," Jenna Houchin (10), said.

The Office is another widely popular comedy series on NBC. It was initially adapted for American audiences by executive producer Greg Daniels, an old time writer for Saturday Night Live, King of the Hill and The Simpsons. The sitcom aired for an eighth season on September 22 with some decent critic reviews. Steve Carell (Michael Scott) plays the lead role as the head of Dunder Mifflin, and a favorite corporate idiot. John Krasinski and Jenna Fischer also play two of the main characters, Jim and Pam, whose romantic relationship progressively improves as the show plays out. Above all, The Office earns uniqueness from the cast and characters, the typical office "confessionals" or "head interviews", the music and the ridiculous humor that successfully keeps viewers coming back for more.

"'Bears, beets, battlestar galactica'...Only a few reasons The Office is exceptional and the funniest show on TV. Some people don't get it. Well, I just don't get them!" ," Jennifer Ricke (11), says. "I strongly believe there's at least an episode that everyone will like. Watch "Fun Run" and if you don't die laughing, you're absolutely ridiculous because as you can see, The Office is a place where dreams come true."

Aside from these favorites returning for another hit season, new shows such as Suburgatory, Revenge, New Girl, Whitney, The X Factor and Terra Nova are brand new to television and seem to be catching viewers.

Also on the lookout for their favorites, suspense lovers are looking forward to thrillers and mysteries such as Castle and Hawaii Five-O.

"Hawaii Five-O is a great show. It's a great family show, especially if your parents have watched the original. In each episode, they drop a hint to something or some kind of evidence that will show up again in a later episode," Riley McMurray (11), said, "It definitely keeps a person guessing."

As fall rounds the corner after a hectic summer, some busy themselves with sports, extra-curricular activities, social events and football games, while others hit the couch with a bowl of popcorn. Attention all fans: grab that blanket and the remote control and be sure not to miss out on this season's list of hottest TV.

SHOWS TO WATCH

PHOTO FROM FOX.COM

PHOTO FROM ABC.GO.COM

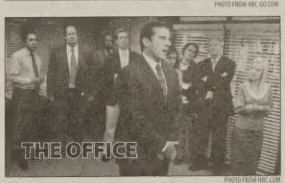


PHOTO FROM NBC.COM

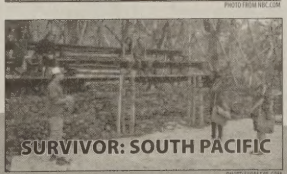


PHOTO FROM CBS.COM

Social networks compete for daily use as chatrooms, photo centers by teenagers

facebook

SOPHIA ROSENBLUM (10)- FACEBOOK

The Spartana: When and why did you join Facebook?

Sophia Rosenblum: I think I joined in the middle of eighth grade one day because I felt out of the loop because all my friends would always talk about Facebook.

Spartana: How many hours do you spend on Facebook per week?

Rosenblum: Hmm... Probably like ten? Does that sound normal?

Spartana: For what do you primarily use Facebook?

Rosenblum: I have a ton of friends who I can't see everyday at school, so it's a good way to keep in touch with them.

Spartana: What do you think the appeal of Facebook is?

Rosenblum: To creep on people without them knowing about it.

Spartana: What makes Facebook different from other social networking websites like Twitter and Tumblr?

Rosenblum: Well, I don't have either of those, but from what I've heard Twitter is just for statuses and Tumblr is for pictures.

tumblr.

KELLY CREWSE (11) – TUMBLR

The Spartana: When and why did you join Tumblr?

Kelly Crewse: I joined about a year ago, but I didn't start using it seriously until about six months ago. I joined because I heard it was an awesome site, and so I wanted to join the awesomeness!

Spartana: How many hours do you spend on Tumblr per week?

Crewse: Oh, a dangerous question. I'd say about 5-7 hours. Tumblr is an addicting site that just completely sucks you in sometimes.

Sparana: For what do you primarily use Tumblr?

Crewse: I like it because I can express myself through pictures, text, music, about anything you can think of. It's so easy to personalize your blog to make it completely your own.

Spartana: What do you think is Tumblr's appeal?

Crewse: Truthfully, it's because not everyone has one. Unlike a Facebook or a Twitter, only a specific amount of people use Tumblr. So i feel I can be more of myself when the entire school isn't following me.

Spartana: What makes Tumblr different than other social networking websites like Facebook or Twitter?

Crewse: Again, it's because not everyone uses it. It's so easy to customize and let your creativity flow and purely enjoy the personalized blog you've created.

twitter

JAMIE BAER (11) – TWITTER

The Spartana: When and why did you join Twitter?

Jamie Baer: I joined Twitter about a year and a half ago because my sister created an account and I wanted to follow her tweets.

Spartana: How many hours do you spend on Twitter per week?

Baer: Approximately 30 minutes a week, I guess?

Spartana: For what do you primarily use Twitter?

Baer: To connect with my cousins Amanda and Hannah and follow celebrities.

Spartana: What do you think is Twitter's appeal?

Baer: You have to keep in short and sweet–only 140 characters!

Spartana: What makes Twitter different from other social networking websites like Tumblr and Facebook?

Baer: There's a word limit.

PHOTOS FROM TWITTER.COM, TUMBLR.COM, AND FACEBOOK.COM

Various experiences give opportunities to discover yourself

I am the master of disguise. Sort of. While I do bear a striking resemblance to Dana Carvey (if I say so myself), no one has ever called me "Pistachio", nor am I turtle-y enough to be a part of the Turtle Club. However, this year I've learned I am capable of wearing more hats than I ever imagined possible.

My summer commenced with the standard routine of fro-yo runs, an occasional concert, and hanging out with friends, the typical recreational repertoire of a Fort Fun native. But, with the beginning of my first job came disguise #1: factory fashionista. Clad in a ratty old t-shirt, men's jeans and painful monsters called steel-toed boots, I found myself working eight-hour shifts manufacturing trailers. Amidst the sawdust, sparks and clanging sound of steel beams, I learned the fine art of decking, that nylock nuts are not my friends, and that certain colorful four-letter words can suffice as nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. In the break room, I even attempted to jump in on a riveting conversation about bass fishing and hunting, but alas, to no avail. For some reason, my coworkers simply didn't buy that I had shot a huge pheasant over the weekend. In spite of my industrial guise, I was clearly an outsider.

ALISON WONDERLAND

From my position in assembly, I later moved to a new non-manufacturing job. Thus came disguise #2: middle-management maven. I was a little more in my element working in the "biz-casual" world of human resources, but the forests of 401k forms and mountains of warrantees were still lands uncharted.

BY ALISON MANSFIELD
Co-Life-Editor

For the first time in my life, I found myself understanding the tech-jargon of the IT department and interacting with new faces serving as a newsletter editor and company photographer. Interviewing a diverse group of employees, I learned that the quintessential grimy-faced guy on third shift may have been to Dubai, umpired a World Series softball game, have awesome Michael Jackson dance moves, or love it when his mom calls him "Boo". Beneath the shields of welding helmets, these workers were all masters of disguise, just like me.

From Markle, Indiana, I traveled to England, donning disguise #3: world traveler and scholar. Among my peers studying abroad, I earned the nickname "Sassy Redhead Jones". I am not a natural ginger, nor would I ever consider myself "sassy" by any means; but I guess that's just the sort of person who navigates a foreign country on her own and is brave enough to go speed dating just for laughs.

> "While I do bear a striking resemblance to Dana Carvey, no one has ever called me "Pistachio", nor am I turtle-y enough to be a part of the Turtle Club. However, this year I've learned I am capable of wearing more hats than I ever imagined possible."
>
> **ALISON MANSFIELD**

And now, back in the midst of Midwestern monotony, here I am again. The girl affectionately called "Nelson Mandela" and "sock girl" by her closest friends. The girl who reads so much it's probably unhealthy. The girl who is obsessed with Chris Pine and who laughs a little too hard at jokes that aren't really that funny.

So what have I gained from this roller coaster ride of an identity crisis? I've learned that if I want to be, I can be Rosie the Riveter incarnate. I've learned that just because someone is a welder doesn't mean they can't make a cheesecake or can't love cats. I've learned that no matter how much I perfect my British slang, I will always be the same old "Indiana gurl". New experience has revealed a new and a different me. Although strange, these veneers were not disguises at all, but facets of my personality previously undiscovered. So dust off those old dress-up kits, Homestead. You never know who you might be next.

tickle me PINK

Vera Bradley continues to fundraise to help find the cure

BY DANA HART
Writer

A virtuous battle against breast cancer will occur on October 8, 2011, dubbed "Tickled Pink Day" by famed handbag company Vera Bradley.

With an estimated 288,130 women in the United States currently diagnosed with this silent killer, Vera Bradley co-founders Barbara B. Baekgaard and Patricia R. Miller have a special connection to breast cancer's impairment. At a tender age, Baekgaard former's roommate Mary Sloan passed away from breast cancer, leaving behind two motherless daughters. To ensure the protection of the girls and make an impact on breast cancer research, in 1993, Baekgaard and Miller co-founded the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer. Since then, these women have been ambassadors of hope and of inspiration to women in their darkest hours.

"We have paid $14 million back out of our $20 million pledge to breast cancer research." Vera Bradley Jefferson Pointe manager Lori Minnich, said. "I am proud to be a part of this foundation."

For several years, Vera Bradley's breast cancer donation day has been a chance for the community to be directly involved in the company's fight against breast cancer. This year, Tickled Pink Day promises to be another success.

"People often preplan their purchases and come in on that day ready to buy," Minnich said. "25% of all of our net sales will be donated to breast cancer research as well as the usual 10% of our Tea Garden breast cancer pattern." Catherine Hill, wife of English teacher Mr. Hill and 11-year Executive Director for the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, is especially excited about the potential donations this year. "It is a chance to raise money for a very worthy cause. Customers will often round up their total bill to help us meet our $50,000 goal. [This year,] 100% of the net earnings of Vera Bradley's Hope Garden watch will go to our foundation," Hill said.

> "25% of all of our net sales will be donated to breast cancer research as well as the usual 10% of our Tea Garden breast cancer pattern."
>
> **CATHERINE HILL**
> *Vera Bradley Foundation Executive Director*

Melissa Schenkel, Public Relations Representative for the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, is also eager about incoming Tickled Pink donations.

"People take into consideration the price of the item they buy and how much will go to the foundation," Shenkel said. "Any purchase makes a difference."

Vera Bradley feels strongly that women need to be educated about their health and about breast cancer prevention.

"I believe [they] will find a cure. We now have more awareness of early detection, we're more aware of the number of women affected by breast cancer," Minnich said. "If you have breast cancer, call the foundation. I have seen Barb [Baekgaard] personally meet with women in treatment and recommend that they call the foundation to be directed to the proper medics. After all, breast cancer knows no age."

With 50 retail stores and 3300 retailers in the United States, Vera Bradley is happy to use the power of its brand to promote such a commendable cause. The company not only promotes the search for a cure but is also a beacon of hope for victims of the disease.

"Have hope!" Hill declared. "With each year, we see more survivors. In continuing our research, we can have happier endings."

No doubt, students have been faced with the horror of cancer, be it a friend or a relative waging the war to survive. Students wishing to be a part of Vera Bradley's foundation can volunteer at www.verabradley.org or can like the Vera Bradley page on Facebook. It is a travesty to see men and women suffer at the hand of a merciless predator. Yet with the power of knowledge and collaboration, even the ordinary man can make a difference. The efforts of Vera Bradley's Tickled Pink Day continue to prove Ghandi knew what he was talking about: "Be the change you wish to see."

BUY THE LOOK

HOPE WATCH
100% of the proceeds from this watch go the the foundation and the look features a pink leather band.
$68

LARGE COSMETIC
Perfect for traveling this pouch is waterproof on the inside.
$29

LAPTOP BACKPACK
This "travel-friendly" bag can hold many sizes of books and binders as well as a laptop in a back compartment.
$99

Teachers reflect on high school pastimes, events

BY WILLIAM NGO
Writer

Forty years ago, there was no dreading of Mondays. School was a place where students willingly came to get an education.

Student attitudes are not the only aspect of high school life that has changed. Each year, trends and social outlooks appear and change in a flash, altering a student's high school experience.

An individual's mindset in high school is likely permanent, unlike high school customs that evolve over the years. Popular school functions such as dances have dramatically changed. Now, during most dances, there is a disc jockey playing music, but in the 1960s, a live music performance was provided.

As a teenager, history teacher Tom Stephenson had his own band. Stephenson and his band were given the chance to perform at a school dance.

"It was pretty cool playing in front of our peers," Stephenson said. "Homestead hasn't had live music for maybe 25 years."

Apart from the musical entertainment provided at dances, students' homework load has also changed. Even teachers today admit that they did not receive as much homework as their current students do.

In the past, the school day consisted of only six periods as opposed to seven, allowing students to complete assignments before the school day ended. Today, teenagers typically spend anywhere from one to three hours on their homework, not including essential studying.

"My homework load is a lot more than last year," Sara Hudnall (10) said. "It can get pretty stressful."

A look through old yearbooks will prove that high school fashion is constantly changing. In the past, education was the main focus while the clothing trends was a minor concern. Students today quickly become preoccupied with new styles and impressing peers, often an unspoken characteristic of popularity or wealth.

"I think [students want] to show money standings, and some do it just because everyone else does it," Klarissa Clem (11) said.

A large difference in current clothing and that of the past is that articles with printed words or printed phrases were uncommon and, to an extent, unavailable. Students now place more attention on clothing brands rather than the quality of education they receive.

Over the years, students' attitudes and morals have also been altered. Presently, a snow day brings delight to students of all ages, but in the past, there was no such thing as a snow day. Because students were eager to learn, they found their way to school.

"People my generation were more concerned about what they learned. Students these days look for excuses not to go to school," Stephenson said.

Despite a number of changing aspects over the years, school sports have remained a staple both for students and for faculty.

"Being athletes, we were treated like kings by the student body," science teacher Steve Bushong said.

However, during the 70's, males were the only athletes able to perform and compete. Now, while both females and males participate in school sports, games like volleyball and gymnastics are mostly limited to females.

Students used to show spirit for sporting events by decorating halls and engaging in pep rallies. There is not much décor or spirit still present. The tradition of pep rallies is carried out, but student enthusiasm is clearly not what it used to be.

Although numerous aspects of high school have changed, teachers and students say the atmosphere of the school remains a positive environment. The teachers care about their students and about providing for them an education.

"I don't think I'd rather go to any other high school," Clem said.

Best dressed students discuss their clothing choices

Different styles, approaches in attire impact first impressions, success in events

BY DANI CASTANZO
Writer

With their cashmere turtlenecks, their v-neck sweaters and their fitted jeans, well-dressed guys stand out among the sea of teenage boys. In high school, first impressions can be binding, and clothing choices are a significant part of a person's image.

"When I look good, I feel good," Nic Pelletier (11) said. "On the days when I actually do put a little effort in, not only is it a good day, it's a fast day, and teachers never yell at you."

The term well-dressed guy is relative and can be defined in many different ways. In middle school, it was rare to see a guy not wearing clothes with American Eagle, Abercrombie or Aeropostale on the front. However, students agree that the stereotypical well-dressed guy generally stays away from these popular brands, preferring a subtler form of class.

"I don't think there's anything wrong with it, but I usually don't wear name brands," Max Brown (10) said. "I don't like the look of store names on clothes."

Sagging is an art that has been perfected since man combined loose jeans with boxers. Although many high school guys follow the trend, girls say that it is not a classy look and that pants should remain at waist level.

Some guys wear earrings or necklaces to add character to their outfits. This use of man jewelry, as some refer to it, receives mixed reviews from students. Some people believe that an earring can add an edge to a guy, while others say that it's too feminine.

With less variety in men's styles, shoes can make or break an outfit. A good pair of Sperry's or a pair of interesting Converse make an average outfit more interesting.

Guys say that there are many reasons to put an effort into looking their best.

"I attended an etiquette dinner when I was in college," science teacher Justin Mull said. "When the speaker approached the subject of appropriate attire he said that unfortunately first impressions are everlasting and inappropriate attire can outweigh 100 appropriate gestures. The clothing people wear, especially in high school, can subconsciously affect the way students are treated by their peers, their teachers, and community members."

Clothes are one outlet for personal expression. Students say that the styles and brands a guy chooses reflect his preferences and, in some cases, his opinion of himself. For example, a Homestead jersey implies an interest in sports, while a pair of old gym shoes shows that comfort is important to him.

"The clothes you wear show what your characteristics are. If you don't put time in your dress, it shows that you don't necessarily care about what you're doing. However, if you spend time on how you dress, it shows that you're willing to go that extra mile," Jason Ivanovic (11) said.

Perhaps the most popular reason for dressing is to impress ladies. While the significance of clothing varies from girl to girl, the majority say that outward appearance is important.

"If guys dress well, it shows that they care about their appearance. Girls put an effort into their clothes, so guys should too," Hannah Kirk (9) said.

Well-dressed men come in many forms and styles, and many girls say that attractive outfits include V-necks, collared shirts and jeans worn at waist level. However, they also agree that the most important thing is a noticeable effort.

"It's important for guys to at least match and stuff. It depends what you mean by well, but as long as it's color coordinated it doesn't really matter," Carson Sheiber (10) said.

DRESS TO IMPRESS

Tips to dress for school and other social events:

- Accessory-wise, a watch is a must-have, and snapbacks, raybans fit well
- One can never have too many Sperry's
- V-necks, button downs add to the look
- European sports jerseys always impress any sports fan or peer
- Shorts in various colors allow for a variety of looks

SPORTS

PHOTO COURTESY KARLEY DOBS

Girls' soccer team finishes first in NHC Conference

Team defeats rival Carroll 2-1 to capture title, gains momentum as postseason nears

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Forward Kelsey Wendlandt (11) takes off on an explosive attack on a surprised Columbia City defense. The team would go on to defeat Columbia City handily in a 3-0 victory.

HAIDEN STEINGASS
Writer

After achieving a victory over Carroll, the girls' soccer team obtained a first-place rank in the NHC Conference. The team has dominated its opponents throughout the season and established a reputation of excellence.

The team boasts a record of 12-3-1, and thus has gained confidence as the season progresses.

"The team has been playing really well together," midfielder Emily Bley (11) said. "Since the beginning of the season our abilities have increased, which has allowed us to score more goals."

The team's most-recent win over Carroll, who is currently ranked twelfth in the state, was captured by a score of 2-1. Although Carroll was able to score the first goal, Kelsey Wendlandt (11) found the back of the net twice during the second half to put the team ahead. The team's explosive offense, complemented by a strong defense, enabled the team to control most of the play.

"The game proved to us that if we work together as a team, and every individual puts in their maximum effort, we can beat anyone," Wendlandt said.

This game proved the team's resilience against top contenders within the state. Every individual contributed to the victory; though much of the offensive attacks come from the efforts of Wendlant, the team was able to play in unity against Carroll. The ability to connect passes and work together has been the focus of the team throughout the season, and this game served as evidence to their improvements.

Although the team proved its strength against Carroll, a defensive lapse caused them to be defeated by a perennial rival, Bishop Dwenger. Miscommunication amongst the defense allowed Bishop Dwenger to pull ahead of the team, and an unbreakable defense allowed them to retain their position. The game concluded with a disappointing score of 1-0.

The greatest impact of this game is that it facilitated the mental development of the players. Even though they were disappointed by getting scored on, the players were able to repel frustration and stay focused on the game. This mind-set will be crucial as the team enters the postseason and competes with stronger opponents.

"We were all upset about the loss, but I think it's going to give us more motivation going into sectionals and possibly regionals," Bley said.

Postseason competition begins soon, and the team will be lead by captains Brianna Herbst (12), Ashley Steiner (12), and Megan Romelfanger (12) into the competition. Thus far, the captains have been vital to the team's success. The captains keep the team determined to win and focused on making improvements.

At the beginning of the season, though they encompassed talent, the team was unable to work together efficiently to defeat opponents; however, with the support of their captains, the team has been able to come together and play as one unit.

By bettering their abilities and gaining new confidence, the team appears unstable as they enter the postseason competition.

"We have proven that we can defeat any team, good or bad, as long as we work together," forward Ari Nelson (11) said.

Football team handily defeats Carroll, retains spot at top of leaderboard in NHC Conference

JACOB COOK
Writer

The football team guaranteed themselves at least a share of the NHC Conference title last Friday with a 31-10 win over Conference rival Carroll. The team improved their overall record to 7-0 and 5-0 in the NHC.

The much-hyped game turned out to be one of the most intense of the team's season. Members of the "Neon Nation," Carroll's student section, arrived in Homestead's parking lots as early as three o'clock; however, their support was not enough as the Spartans came through to continue their perfect season. The final score of 31-10 featured two passing touchdowns by Zach Terrell (12), a run by Terrell and a run by Dale Stroud (12).

Overall, it was one of the team's first true challenges of the season. A fumble on the initial kickoff lost the team their first chance on offense, but a blocked field goal turned around the momentum of the game. Late in the first quarter, starting running back Grayson Bastin (11) sprained his knee and was taken out of the game.

"Watching the [Carroll] game from the sidelines was definitely something very hard to swallow," Bastin said.

His replacement, Frank Martin (11), ran for 101 yards and caught a pass for a touchdown to contribute to the offensive machine.

The most-memorable moment of the game came as Nolan McMahon (11) completed a field goal for 56 yards, setting a school record and earning a standing ovation from both Homestead and Carroll supporters alike.

While the team played a great game offensively, their efforts were stained by a total of 84 yards worth of negative penalties.

"It was us shooting ourselves in the foot," said Terrell. "It seemed like every time we made a big play there was a penalty to bring it back."

Perhaps the team's more important victory was their triumph over the elements. It was their first test against colder conditions, which have a history of shutting the team down. Of Zolman's 18 total defeats as Homestead's coach, 12 have come during the month of October, when the players must truly batle the weather; however, last Friday hopefully serves as an indicator that this team is ready for the weather to change.

The team faces Norwell this week in another NHC match-up and New Haven next week. They are looking to dominate Norwell (0-7) to ensure their place at the top of the NHC and secure a Conference title over New Haven (6-1). Bastin is set to return against New Haven and is ready to be back on the field.

"I can't wait to get back in time for the post season," Bastin said. "I want to do my part by just executing at a top level and minimizing on mental errors."

Looking to the future, the team has higher goals than ever for the postseason. Hoping to win their sectional tournament, the team is confidant in their abilities.

"Each week is about playing better than we did the week before," Dale Stroud (12) said.

The team is approaching their goals for the end of the season working harder than ever as a team.

"Our whole team is just willing to do anything to help us succeed in those tough games," Bastin said.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Girls' cross country improvement foreshadows success at semi-state

Strong work ethic and team mentality keep varsity hopes of attending state alive

ALLISON OVERLANDER
Writer

Accelerating to a commanding position within the NHC Conference, the girls' conference team has proven its dominance this season. Steadily improving as the season progresses, the team looks optimistically on its postseason prospects.

"Our past two meets have proven an undeniable strength from the team," Carmen Rosales (12) said. "We continue to improve even when the conditions are not always the best. Being a senior on the team has forced me to enjoy every moment of the hard work we do."

The team's two most-recent invitationals were the New Haven Classic and West Noble. The varsity team proved their hard work and skill when they won the West Noble invitational. The varsity team also accomplished a sixth place finish at the New Haven Classic. Together as a team they had great accomplishments and achieved goals as a whole. Lately the team has achieved much; therefore, their hopes from the beginning of the season are still intact. With such high hopes they went into their meets with great confidence not only for themselves but for one another.

"These two meets proved that we have a lot of determination and we need to show it during the postseason meets," Mariah Jordan (11) said. "All of us are working so hard and we hope it pays off."

Although they are not ranked for state, the athletes hope to get past sectionals and regionals. The team knows semi-state competition will be its greatest challenge; however, with this year going so well, the team atmosphere and perseverance could carry them far.

The team hopes to place in the top six teams at semi-state in order to advance to state. That goal has been established since the inception of the season. The team is anxious to see how their work this year has paid off, as they are challenged during the postseason meets.

The team's greatest feature is its team-oriented mentality. The runners all know how to enjoy a practice or a meet and lighten the mood if someone has a bad day. They never put down or make each other feel bad; only encouragement exists within this team. The girls work as a family, and together they know they will accomplish great things.

"Cross country has undoubtedly been the highlight of my high school career, and I wouldn't consider these girls anything less than family," Rosales (12) said.

As the season has progressed, the girls' cross country team has been working harder and with more heart than ever. They encourage each other and have developed so much as a team this year. They have had so much success because as a team, they get through the tough meets and practices.

With the postseason looming near, the girls' cross country has peaked. The results of their final test will prove how dominant this team has become.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Lauren Purlee (12) and Kylie Burton (11) race down the final straightaway at the NHC Conference meet.

Paul Lee (11) overcomes injury, returns to ice as prominent "Snip Show"

It begins with the heart. His heart pumps and contracts, directing the flow of oxygen throughout his body, it's nothing out of the ordinary; however, what this heart pumps for makes him different fro m most other athletes. If we draw back form the heart, we emerge to the skin, where a faint scar is etched above his shoulder; it is another factor that makes him separate from other athletes. Covering the shoulder is the jersey. On the front, there is a golden "C" embroidered near his shoulder, and his talent makes him unique. On the back of the jersey, it says "P. Lee."

For the talented hockey team captain Paul Lee (11), that is all there is to his game: a heart, a shoulder, and a jersey.

The development of the heart began when he first stepped on the ice at age four. The Lee family is a hockey family, with a father as a coach and a brother as a graduated veteran of the Homestead hockey team. Though he excelled at other sports, Lee remained true to the family tradition and focused on hockey.

THE AVERAGE JOE

BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Sports Editor

From his first competitive match to his last, Lee has accelerated through the rankings and established himself as one of the best hockey players in the nation. Prior to joining the Homestead team, Lee played for the Indy Racers, a club team that was ranked nationally and placed in the quarterfinals of the national tournament.

During his freshmen year, he made the varsity hockey team and instantly became crucial to the team's success. After proving himself a lethal offensive threat, Lee earned the nickname, "The Snip Show." If the fans wanted to watch the action, they followed his jersey.

By the time the first game of his sophomore year rolled around, banners with "The Snip Show" written on them decorated the walls of the hockey arena. The student section was filled with spectators chanting his name. Lee took to the ice, and all was set in place; until suddenly, his shoulder wasn't.

Lee make a hard collision with an opponent into the boards and dislocated his shoulder. Before he knew it, his shoulder dangled four inches below its regular position.

"It was a horrible, constant shooting pain from my fingers to my neck. My whole arm was just dangling four inches lower than usual, and I couldn't move it," Lee said.

Spectators watched in terror as Lee sunk on the ice. Some cringed at the look of his arm, while tears glistened in the eyes of worried others; however, Lee never felt neither fear nor pity for himself. As opposed to sliding off the ice to see a trainer, Lee pushed and tugged at his limp arm, refusing to accept an injury that would prevent him from playing.

"The only thing going through my mind was trying to get it back in the socket," Lee said.

Until it was properly put in place, Lee endured a pain that most athletes never have to experience. Fortunately for Lee, the crisis was over. At least until he dislocated the same shoulder two weeks later in a game against Brebeuf Jesuit. Or until he dislocated it for a third time while playing against Lawrence Central. Maybe when he dislocated it a fourth time against Marian he would simply put away his skates. No, that would not suit Lee, for he took no time to rest and was playing by the next game.

As the season ensued and Lee battled injury after injury, he earned himself a place at the top of the leader board for points-scored in the state. By the end of the season, Lee earned the first place title for points-scored throughout the city league. Clad in the new brace, Lee went on to lead his team to win its third-consecutive city championship.

The season ended and he was generally content. He had worn his jersey with pride, battled the shoulder, and expressed an unrivaled passion for the spart. During the offseason, after experiencing another dislocation while surfing in Hawaii, Lee at last consented to have surgery. Following a successful operation, Lee endured a grueling regiment of physical therapy so that he could return to the ice.

Lee was at last been cleared by a physical therapist to play against Carroll during the season-opener. When Lee stepped back onto the ice, he brought with him his entire game: the heart, the shoulder, and the jersey.

The spectators applauded his return and welcomed The Snip Show. They would watch in admiration as he would go on to score two goals and tally four assists. As expected, Lee was involved in three-fourths of all the goals the team scored that night in an 8-2 victory. After similar performances in the following games, Lee is once again at the top of the leader board for points-scored in the state.

When the fans watch Lee on the ice, they associated his jersey with his skill. Moreover, some would glance at his shoulder and remember his injury.

But Lee has more than simply skill and a nagging injury. Beneath it all lies his heart, the heart that never stops pumping for hockey.

He is now, and always will be, The Snip Show.

follow us
@The Spartana
for live updates from sporting events

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: NOLAN MCMAHON (11), FOOTBALL KICKER

PHOTO BY NICK MARCELL

After joining the football team his sophomore year, Nolan McMahon (11), a former soccer player, has excelled as a kicker. Though he was already notorious for repeatedly kicking touchbacks on kick-offs, McMahon recently set a new school record for the youngest field goal after making a 56-yard attempt against Carroll High School.

Spartana: How has your background in soccer helped you in football?
McMahon: Growing up playing soccer helped a lot because it made me comfortable using my feet. Getting a basic background from an early age on how to kick a ball has helped tremendously with football, because I only had to make small transitions into kicking a football.

Spartana: Has it been hard to learn to kick field goals?
McMahon: It hasn't been terribly difficult to learn how to kick for football. The hardest part about it is the stress on repetition of movements and learning my steps for kickoff and field goal.

Spartana: What do you enjoy most about football?
McMahon: I love the overall atmosphere of football, games especially. It is really cool to have so many fans in [the] stands. I love it when people on the opposing team try to get into your head because that gives you all the more reason to do better.

Spartana: Do you plan to continue football in the future?
McMahon: I would love to kick in college. It would be really nice to go DI but getting to kick in college would be really cool.

PHOTOS COURTESY KARLEY DOBIS

Girls' golf team advances to state for first time in six years

TYLER KOTESKY
Writer

Finishing 13th in the state tournament, the girls' golf team capped off its incredible postseason performance. After winning both the sectional and regional championships, the team continued on to the State meet, but struggled to compete with the top teams there.

"We've always had a strong team but never had a season like this one," Emily Olson (11) said. "I'm so proud of my entire team."

To begin its impressive run in the postseason, the team dominated the sectional tournament with a first place finish with 347 points. The team score is determined by the top 4 golfers' total score, and the team won the match by 13 points. Dobis had the best individual score of the competition with a total of 80 strokes, and Jennings was third individually with 83 strokes.

In their regional competition, the team won again by 15 points, with a total score of 331. All of the players improved their score from Sectionals, and the team score also improved. Dobis finished in the top five individually as well.

The team's success is truly a phenomenon. Just last year, the team finished fifth in the Regional tournament and did not move on to State.

"[This year,] we all practiced and did a lot of tournaments over the summer which really helped prepare us for the upcoming season," Jennings said.

With all this extra practice, the girls improved greatly this season. In fact, this year was the first year that the team has made it to State since 2005.

They had a lot of confidence heading into the State tournament, and the girls decided to make it a goal to place in the top nine teams, which would allow them to hit another round.

"If we all shoot our best scores, I think we can easily make it into the top nine teams and advance to the second round," Jennings said.

"There will be a lot of good teams there, so we just really have to stay focused and not crack under pressure."

Olson also acknowledged the pressure of playing at State.

"Going into the state tournament, I'm sure I'll be shaking with anxiety. But once I tee off that first hole, it'll be vital to put my nerves aside and start playing the game I know how to play," Olson said.

Olson ended up doing well herself with the second best score on the team. At State, they finished with a score of 358 which was only 18 strokes from making it into the second round. This year, it was difficult for the team to compete with the top teams at the State level against whom they had never played.

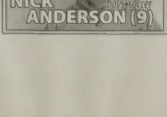
Though it marked the conclusion of the seniors' careers, the experience of being at State itself benefited the team, specifically underclassmen such as Courtney DelaCuesta (10) and Annie Butchko (10), who had not previously competed in the postseason.

"We all knew going into the season that our goal was to go to state, and thankfully we were able to accomplish that," Jennings said. "Karley and I [were] most excited, because it's our senior year and our very last high school competition."

The experience did not only benefit the underclassmen but was the final experience in Jennings and Dobis's high school golf careers. DelaCuesta, Butchko, and Olson will be the returning varsity golfers next season, but they are losing their top 2 golfers. They will have to step up next season if they want to have a season like they had this year.

From above: Karley Dobis (12) tees off and watches her ball carry down the fairway. From left: the girls' golf team celebrates a spectacular first-place finish at the Regional Championships. Starting at bottom left: Annie Butchko (10), Dobis, and Courtney DeLaquesta (10). Starting from top right: Jasmine Jennings (12) and Emily Olson (11).

pop culture with HHS athletes

	The Indianapolis Colts are worse than:	Teammate likely to sleep through practice:	Teammate most like a team mom:	How I prepare for competition:	Reality show my coach would be on:
SETH COATE (11) football	Buffalo Wild Wings' service.	Elijah Zavala (11).	Devin "Sunshine" Wright (11).	Rockin out with my - country blaring while eating a turkey bacon club sub from Arby's.	Coach Middleton would be on Pimp My Ride. "Yung Humma" is a "G," a celeb look-alike.
VERONIKA GROTE (10) volleyball	Tom Brady's haircut last season.	Julia Sciole (12).	Cassie Libbing (11), she always makes sure we have what we need.	Trying to sleep on the bus rides to tourney and getting woken up by the seniors.	Coach Mitchell would be on the bachelor.
 CHRIS ROBINSON (11) boys' cross country	Captain Obvious.	Ryan Boylan (11).	Jake Peters (11), he is the nicest guy on the team and is always thinking of other people.	Step 1: Hydration. Step 2: Nutrition. Step 3: A good stretch.	He would be on COPS getting caught for running over the speed limit.
KARLEY DOBIS (12) girls' golf	The bloopers of "Cartoon Lizzy" during the Lizzy McGuire Show.	Through? Me. During? Jasmine Jennings (12).	BUTCH! Hands down.	Blessing my teammates with my incredible vocal talent.	One of those extreme make-over shows, in which a girl does not know the word "style."
NICK ANDERSON (9) cross-country	When Paco rips a nasty one at practice.	Alex Moore (12) or Evan Welter (12).	Frankie Zirille (12), no question.	Reading the Bible and getting into the zone.	Jersey Shore, he already is from a foreign country.

TALES FROM THE TAILGATE

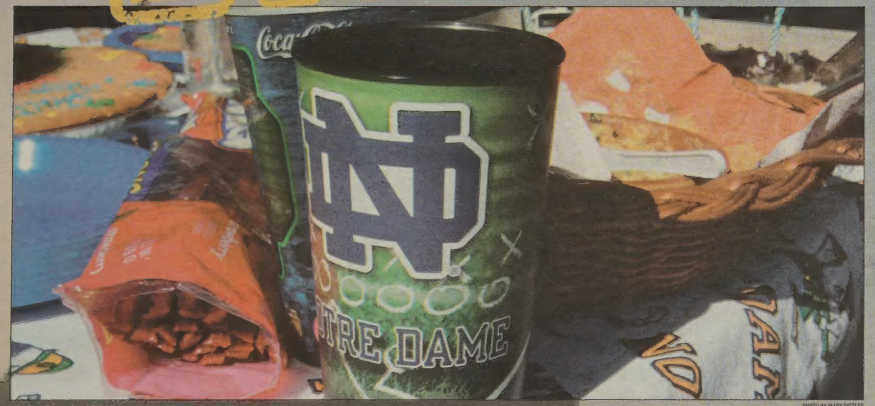


PHOTO BY MARY DISTLER

PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLE DAVIS

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT BARBISH

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN MANTICA

TAILGATING TIPS

- Zip Lock Bags: Use tougher freezer bag versions, keeps food cold on long drives
- Foil Trick: Line portable grill with aluminum foil to avoid messy clean-up
- Freeze Your Water: Keep water cold for drinking throughout the day, use ice-packs
- Prep Burgers: Cook burgers in advance, use thin burgers for shorter cooking time
- Labeled Cups: Bring plenty of plastic cups and markers to distinguish personal cups
- Table Decorations: Decorate your tables with team colors and memorabilia
- Clothing: Dress for the day's weather, also pack changes of clothing for any unexpected shifts in the weather that may occur

Football super-fandom a family tradition

By Lauren Purlee
Feature Editor

Crazy face paint, themed corn hole games, warm chili, televisions set up in the trunks of cars–there's really nothing like a good tailgate. And with football season well underway, fans are embracing what many of them believe to be the greatest time of year.

This Saturday there will be thousands of fans piling into collegiate stadiums across the country to root for their favorite team. And while they may all look similarly enthused, do not be fooled–not all fans are created equal. Because there are the fans: the people wearing the school's colors that usually *try* to make it to a game every year, weather permitting. They're the ones that spend the first quarter of the game reading the program. Then there are the super-fans: the diehards that not only wear, but bleed the school colors on a daily basis. These guys have the entire program memorized and can usually recite it backwards in multiple languages (almost). For them, football isn't just a sport, but a passion. It's a tradition, and they're proud to be a part of it.

"My fanhood started because of my Uncle Gar...who hasn't missed a game in around thirty years," Michigan football super-fan Matt Barbish (11) said.

With both of his parent hailing from Detroit, and Uncle Gar who "kind of brainwashed" him at a very young age into that same intense passion, Barbish never even had a chance to favor any other teams. But he's not complaining–he swears that after his first game there was no turning back. That day he knew, he had found a team for life. While he would love to attend Michigan after high school, Barbish says that he chooses to remain open to all other options for now, and hopes to eventually choose the school that fits him the best.

Purdue super-fan Kyle Davis (12), had a similarly football influenced upbringing. With two proud Purdue graduates for parents, Davis spends many of his autumn weekends in West Lafayette cheering on the Boilermakers with his family. Each home game, the Davis clan sets up their tailgate in the same exact area, complete with food, friends, pickup football games and even a satellite dish to watch all the football games that start before the Purdue game on television. A family tradition, Davis admits that Purdue would probably be his number one choice as of now for after graduation.

Frankie Zirille (12) shares a similar enthusiasm for college football, and his heart beats for the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. Filling seats in the stadium since age four, Zirille and his family take full advantage of their season tickets, going to as many games as possible each fall. A family of die-hards, their visits are rich in tradition; each one begins with a trip to the grotto (an old, candle-lit landmark of the Catholic university where students and fans alike come to pray), and then the family follows the marching band into the stadium.

"I would eventually like to see myself at Notre Dame," Zirille said.

Megan Mantica (12), though perhaps not quite as seasoned as other die-hard fans, is yet another college football super-fan. Ever since her sister Rachel began studying at Ball State University, Mantica has taken to enjoying the excitement of BSU football as well. Sometimes with her family, sometimes with friends, sometimes even with Rachel's sorority sisters--tailgating is always one of the most eventful parts of the day; however, Mantica's very favorite part of her frequent visits is the traditional Cardinal cheer when everyone jingles their keys during kickoff and there is a cheer when the parents say 'Ball' and the students say 'State'.

Even though her fandom is newer than some of her fellow super-fans at Homestead, Mantica is enthusiastic about attending Ball State in the future.

"I applied to BSU minutes after the [application] was up and my fingers are crossed! Chirp chirp all the way!" Mantica said.

In the end, when it comes to being a true college football fan, it's more than a little face paint that separates the men from the boys. It's more than the ability to master a portable grill for your tailgate. To be a true super-fan is a commitment–a commitment to wear the school colors through both wins and losses. A commitment to attend even the coldest and rainiest of games. A commitment to undying support for your team. And most of all, as seen in the Barbish, Davis, Zirille and Mantica families, a commitment to pass down the passion to future generations.

> "My fanhood started because of my Uncle Gar…who hasn't missed a game in around thirty years."
>
> **MATT BARBISH (11)**
> *Michigan Fan*

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Issue One

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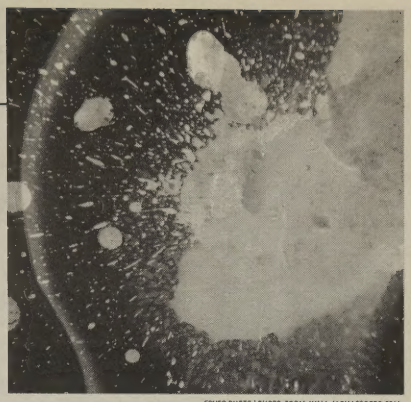

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FORT **FUN**

In order to get rid of the constant "There's nothing fun to do in Fort Wayne!" complaints, Surplus has taken the initiative to put an end to boredom by providing a list of awesome activites going down in Fort Fun.

OCTOBER:

The Phil: Freimann 1 --
October 5
The Freimann Series offeres intimacy and an up-close look, as well as hilighting the certain instruments that are featured in Fort Wayne's Philharmonic.

Reba McEntire --
October 14
Famous female country singer Reba McEntire will be at the Allen County War Memorial Colliseum on October 14 as a part of her U.S. tour.

Haunted Castle & Black Forest --
October 1 - October 31
Sponsored by the St. Vincent's Boy Scouts, these scary tours will be sure to give a fright. They are located at 8965 Auburn Rd., in Fort Wayne, and are $9 each or $15 for both. The Haunted Castle and Black Forest are open 7-11 pm on Fridays and 7-9 pm on Thursdays and Saturdays.

Newsboys --
October 15
Acclaimed Christian rock band, Newsboys, will be performing on October 15 at the Colliseum.

Fort Wayne Komet Hockey --
October 16
Come out to support Fort Wayne's greatest hockey team, the Komets, as the team and fans celebrate their 60th anniversary as the greatest hockey team in Indiana!

The Phil Signature Choral: A Night at the Opera --
October 21
Andrew Constantine, a world famous conductor, control

Fort Wayne Arts Festival --
October 2 - October 3
Located at Jefferson Pointe, this year's Art Festival will include works of art by local and regional artists.

Third Day --
October 21
Christian rock group Third Day will perform at the Embassy Theatre on Friday October 21 at 6:00 P.M.

Fright Site Hikes --
October 9 - October 16
Sponsored by ARCH, this event will be held at the Scottish Rite Center. It features haunts around Fort Wayne as well as historical information about the city.

Wild Zoo Halloween --
October 14 - October 31
The Fort Wayne Children's Zoo's annual event adds a new twist, increasing the fun for the whole family.

Old Fort: Fall Festival --
October 23
Hear cannons roar and rifles fire as the Old Fort downtown hoasts their fall festival this year on O

ARCH Fall Festival --
October 8
Held in the historic Old Fort, there will be many games and other activities which incorporate some of Fort Wayne's history as well. The event is free but donations are appreciated.

The Phil: Halloween Spooktacular--
October 23
Hear all of your favorite scary tunes as this special concert features Fort Wayne's acclaimed Philharmonic playing all the classics to celebrate this Halloween season.

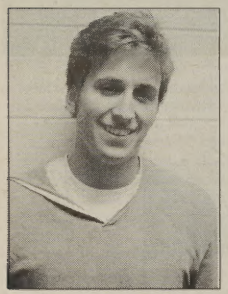
Straight No Chaser--
October 30
Underground band Straight No Chaser will make their big stage debut on October 30 at the War Memorial Colliseum.

Bryan Adams--
November 8
Bryan Adams will play a solo acoustic set at the Fort Wayne Embassy Theatre. Prepare to see Bryan Adams like you've never seen him before.

CONNOR'S *corner*

WELCOME TO THE *CORNER*

AS I BEGIN MY FINAL YEAR AT THIS LOVELY ESTABLISHMENT, I HOPE TO PROVIDE A LITTLE INSIGHT INTO HOW I'VE FELT AND HOW I CONTINUE TO FEEL ABOUT HOMESTEAD, AS WELL AS THE GENERATION WE ARE GROWING UP IN. NOW THAT MAY SOUND LIKE A PRETTY HEAVY AND WEIGHTED CONCEPT, BUT THAT WILL ALL COME AS THE YEAR GOES ON. FOR NOW, ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF, CONNOR O'HARA



BY CONNOR O'HARA
Surplus Editor

Hello fellow students and faculty. First of all, let me congratulate and praise you for being one of the select few who are brave enough to open this skimpy looking insert. As many of you may know, and for those who are unfamiliar, Surplus is an insert that will accompany The Spartana every other issue. I know, I know, the times in between will cause nothing but heartbreak and turmoil for you, but rest assured, Surplus will return.

Now, I'm sure most of you are wondering what exactly Surplus consists of. In one word: everything. My goal for this coming year is to provide the readers of Surplus with insight into how the student body feels (with the occasional branch into me ranting and raving about certain issues or events happening in pop culture).

I feel so embarassed for not introducing myself yet, my name is Connor O'Hara, and I'm a senior here at Homestead. Though you cannot tell, but right now I'm fist pumping to the idea that this is my last year at this school. That's not to say that it's ALL been a giant pain, but it kind of has been.

I digress. When I was thinking about what to write my first column in Surplus about, I struck a brick wall. What am I to tell my readers that will make them want to come back to read my columns every time there is a Surplus? I then realized that the best thing I could do is to prove to the readers that even though I have a fancy "Editor-In-Chief" title along with my name, I'm really an ordinary student who does ordinary things.

What ordinary things, Connor?

Why thank you imaginary reader, I was just getting there. I played tennis my freshman year and lacrosse my freshman and sophomore year. I was by no means a jock, and for those of you who know me or have seen me around, you probably cannot picture me doing any sort of competitive physical activity, and to be honest, I couldn't agree more. It was the summer of my junior year when I discovered something that would alter the path of my life and free time forever. I discovered Breaking Bad

I can't remember how I got hooked on the show but I believe I downloaded the pilot episode to my iPod to watch on my drive down to Florida. Before this time period, my intelligence of artistic television was at a minimum. For my fellow seniors who do not remember, but I believe most of you do, I was a fanatic over the television show, LOST. My Dad called me a "Lostie." I would watch each new episode religiously and study everything about it.

Anywho, back to Breaking Bad. The reason I mention my complete and utter devotion to LOST is because, as mind-blowing as it is for me to admit, Breaking Bad has stolen it's place as the greatest television show I have ever had the viewing pleasure to witness. The show details the life of Walter White, a chemistry teacher turned crystal meth cook. Walter is diagnosed with lung cancer and decides to start cooking crystal meth in order to provide money for his sub middle-class family once he is dead and gone. The show is one of the most beautifully made and constructed stories in television history, a claim I will stand by until the burn me at the steak (okay, maybe not that dramatic).

Still reading? I hope you didn't die of boredom or loser overdose so far because there is one other essential component (this is what commodity means for those of you still stuck in grade level English) in my life that I have yet to mention.

I like to consider myself a musically talented person. Look, I'm trying to avoid the cliche, okay? I [try] to play guitar and piano, though most of the time it's me relaying whatever video of Jimmy Page I've watched and hoping that my fingers land on the correct strings at the correct time. Even though I'm certainly no Jimmy Page, music is a huge part of my life. Again trying to avoid the cliche, I truly believe you can find any type of music on my iPod. The only reason I hate saying that is because I remember a quote I read once that read: "People who say they like all kinds of music, really like no kinds," so I feel I should also relay that I absolutely despise country music. Man, this column is just full of cliches, isn't it?

To me, Radiohead encompasses everything that should be great about a Rock N' Roll band. They are constantly reinventing themselves and scouring their minds for creative innovation that will then transform their songs and lyrics into artistic statements the likes of which I have never seen. I thoroughly encourage you to listen to Radiohead, and if you don't like them, keep listening. There will be songs you will hate and songs you will love, and that's what being an artist is. You cannot please everyone all the time, and that's why I love Radiohead.

The most depressing part of this column is trying to figure out a way to end it. I hope that many of you come back and read Surplus, because I promise you it will be different than last year and any other years before it. I hope that I can prove worthy to be a voice for my fellow student body. Enjoy this new year my friends. Farewell, and go Spartans.

CONNOR'S *commodities*

PHOTO FROM: NRK.NO

Often dubbed as the world's most important band, Radiohead has spanned over twenty years and has relased albums such as OK Computer that was voted the greatest album of the past twenty-five years. Never staying with the same musical style, Radiohead has transformed themselves time and time again, leaving their audience waiting for what glorious stages lie ahead.

PHOTO FROM: DERJWALLPAPERS.COM

Set against the ominous Albequerque, New Mexcio, desert, Breaking Bad has changed the landscape of telovised drama. The show follows the life of chemstiry teacher Walter White who is diagnosed with lung cancer and then turns to cooking crystal meth in order to leave money for his family. A show that has been studied and praised, Breaking Bad has become infamous for twisting plot lines, excessive symbolism, and one of the darkest stroy lines ever written.

THE HYPOTHETICAL RISE & FALL OF THE ZUCKEBERG EMPIRE

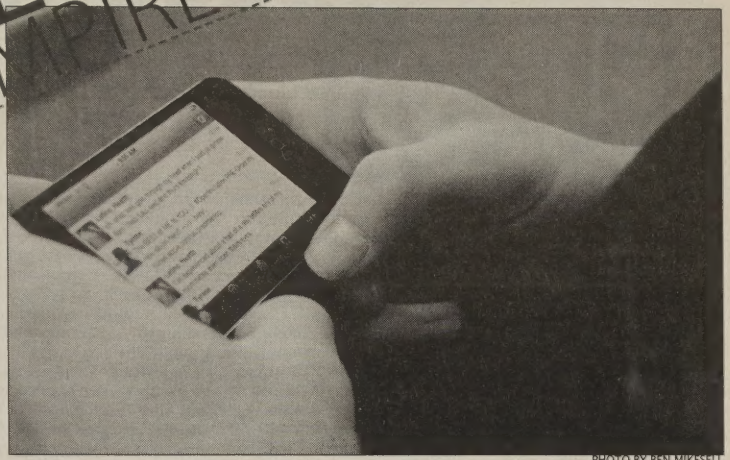


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Many students check twitter throughout their day almost religiously. twitter has almost surpassed facebook as the most used social networking application. many students perfer twitter to facebook due to the simple and transparent way to see what their friends are thinking.

By Allie Wehling
Surplus Writer

As Facebook is slowly dying, Twitter is becoming the social network in which interests this generation of teens. The previous generation opts to use Facebook for communicating with old friends from high school, while this generation's social networking phase has stepped beyond Facebook and is now using Twitter. Unfortunately, Facebook has more widely accepted advertisements in the recent year which stray its young users away.

Twitter's innovative use began for celebrities. It has rapidly evolved into a new world of social networking. Young users are able to use this social networking more conveniently on-the-go than they can with Facebook. With smart phone capabilities, Twitter users check their TimeLine (TL) periodically throughout the day.

"I prefer Twitter because I have the iPhone now and can get on it often, but before I had a smart phone, I preferred Facebook," said Olivia Byler (12).

Twitter has a variety of uses such as: Professors keep their students updated, government prospects, business ads, college information, and additional information.

When Facebook was at its zenith, young users spent hours on end glued to the computer screen looking at their Facebook friend's photos and writing on Facebook walls; however, some teens never became interested in this idea.

"I never had a Facebook just because it was too personal, and Twitter is much more convenient and on-the-go," said Alex Smith (12).

Facebook has not completely fallen off the social networking opportunities young users find interest in, but its young user's numbers are clearly decreasing. Teens without smart phone ability are more likely to use Facebook in order to keep connected with their friends, because Twitter is well-known for its convenience on-the-go.

"I prefer Twitter, and I use it a lot more too. Facebook is good for groups, but Twitter is an easier way to communicate and share your opinion. Even my professors at Saint Francis use it to remind us about assignments or let us know if class is going to be let our early that particular day. I just find Twitter much more useful and convenient. I think our generation is moving on to things such as Twitter and Tumblr, while our parents are just now figuring out how to work Facebook," said Amanda Wurst (12).

> "I never had a Facebook just because it was way too personal. . . Twitter is much more convenient and on-the-go."
>
> **ALEX SMITH**
> *Senior*

While parents remain intrigued by Facebook and all it has to offer, as Amanda Wurst (12) said, Twitter and Tumblr target the generation of teens. High school students use Twitter for stating their opinion, or what they are doing for the day, and Tumblr's use is for blogging. Users of Tumblr blog about personal issues. It is often an open site which others can see what the user has been blogging. Pictures can also be added to their personal sites. It resembles a journal in some ways.

"Although I have a Twitter, I prefer Facebook because I don't have a smart phone," said Taylor Scheiber (12).

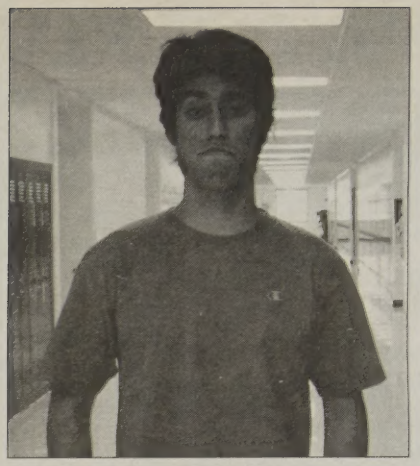
The trending phase for the teen generation continuously changes from different social networks; for now, Facebook is losing teen users while Twitter is growing at a rapid pace. With accessibility to social networks increasing because of smartphone technology, teens as well as adults are taking advantage of this capability. As social networks remain an interest to many people, users of all ages are keeping in contact with others, as well as the fun antics of social networking.

iPod
12:02 PM
cpatohara
cpatohara
15 hours
Mitt Romney doesn't understand what hypothetical means..
Logan_T_Johnson
15 hours
If you are an ME major I need your help!!
Joe_Laughlin
15 hours
@cpatohara I want thorough updates
BarackObama
15 hours
"Ultimately the American people won't take 'no' for an answer."— President Obama on Republicans voting to block the American Jobs Act
TIME
15 hours
TIME managing editor Rick Stengel is on stage at #ciw11 with our Time

SCREENSHOT BY CONNOR O'HARA

Because of its easy to read features and ability to follow not only their friends, but also politicians, magazines, and celebrties, Twitter has skyrockted in the amount of users constantly tweeting.

ARTIST *of the* MONTH



LORAN **SAGGU**

Every month, Surplus highlights a different Homestead artist. This issue, Loran Saggu (12) reveals how his creative writing has drive him for a greater appreciation of the artform. The following is a piece written by Loran entitled "The Manimal."

By Lorander Saggu
Creative Writing Artist

A tar-black wave of dirge broke into a crippling tremor upon their sea of vacant faces. That is, explicitly, the scene I can recall most from the day on which I was absolutely certain I had nearly lost my life. The fascinating thing is that that day was just a normal day like so many others, but the memories of that day, of what I am sure I experienced, have lingered. I continue to brood over the episode, and I presume I will for quite a while, if not until I succumb to my end.

My radio alarm was singing as my eyes flew open that precarious day, and while they pulled themselves closed. I managed to glimpse six o'clock as the time, but when I pried my eyes open once more the clock had adjusted to six thirty. I drew myself out of bed and, lethargically, made my way to the bathroom. As the blood made its way to my head, I stood still for a moment as my body attuned to being awake as it had been only six hours ago. Glaring at myself in the mirror I began my daily routine. I washed my light brown skin, sweeping over my sharp nose. As I regarded myself once more I swept my hand through my jet black hair and turned to go.

I listened to the same song as I drove down the same streets. Upon reaching first period, I prepared myself for another usual, mind-numbing, day. Each one of these dull, systematic days I hoped for a variance from the normal schedule; I hoped for the addition of some form of excitement to my day. First period, however, nothing happened, and I continued on to worm through the rest of the day's sunlight hours as an inmate of the whitewashed school. As I passed through the hallway I saw all the individual faces of the people I knew, the people I didn't know, the people I wish I knew, and the people who I would have preferred not to know. Then there were also all the girls for whom I have lusted for, and who, generally, have never even known my name. These faces were all the same to me now, and all I could look forward to was a break from these faces, a break from the schedule, a break from the rules, a break from it all.

Slowly, the day progressed to the arrival of fifth period. During my previous classes I had made attempts to be funny, as usual, and had ended up embarrassing myself, which was funny to most of the class, and which was quite common. Fifth period, study hall, was nothing like that. I sat there desolate most days and kept to myself. This was quite enjoyable sometimes because it gave me the opportunity to evaluate the people around me, myself, and my own random thoughts. Today was different; it was nothing like that at all.

After returning from a usual lunch, being quite full, I prepared myself for a nap. Having positioned my head on my arm, which rested on the speckled table, in a comfortable arrangement, I took one useless look around. What I saw was not feckless, it was frightening. Everyone had turned to face me. I thought I had created a disturbance or that something around me had occurred. Nothing, however, was amiss except for all of them. All their eyes contained red spirals and all their expressions were crazed. I felt as if I was surrounded by manic carnies, maniacs, whose only purpose was one of evil. Their thoughts grasped me, and into my mind they yelled at me in some tongue not of this earth. With one hand I began to pinch myself, but I could not wake out of this nightmare. The resolve then shot around me like adrenaline, fueling me. I knew what I was destined at that to do at that moment. I had to destroy them.

These things, things are what they were for they began to deform into monsters of a creed I had never dreamed I could imagine, were minions of the Devil, if not possibly worse. Looking to my right I was taken aback. Behind the glass was a person, a powerful being who had to have held command over the other things in the room. He commanded everything in sight with his presence and the creatures around me seemed to draw from the energy this being possessed. He was their Grand Wizard. Surely, I had to act and I had to act fast. I made the book on my desk take flight. The glass separating the all-powerful being from the study hall room was shattered and the shards flew through the being's apparition as it vanished like a wisp of smoke. Those, who previously were just indifferent adolescents, before me, now frenzied, charged at me. With a strength I did not know I possessed, I threw the desk at which I sat atop those who fled toward me within the vicinity. It was no use, however, because they were everywhere in the room. The maniacs' rampage began when I threw the book, yet I knew they would have come for me whether I waited or not. I picked up the closest things to me and chucked them at the nearest bodies of evil trying to instill harm upon me. The chairs and tables flew and crashed and thudded into them, but there were just so many. Some reached me and grabbed me, scratching and clawing through my shirt. I forced them off of my person and did what I could to individually end their mission which originated without a cause. It was an endless barrage of possessed minions. Their goal was clearly to obliterate me.

I was going to fight to the end. After each time I prevailed against an enemy, or several enemies, more came. Their malevolent flood was endless. Their sea of faces, which were previously empty of everything but mal intent, began to display emotion, and a sound, a chant, was begun, a raging wrath was sparking in their eyes. I noticed several had gathered in a room to come up with an ultimate plan for my annihilation. My mind told me then that I had to stop that insurrection or it would be my demise. Knowing evil could not prevail, I made my move. With the adrenaline pumping through me I picked up a broken table leg and made my way through the chaos, fighting my way to the room. Knowing, also, a direct melee would be foolish, I flung the table leg at the group's leader. He was a stout bearded monster with a head comprised of completely solid steel. The table leg, powered by the fuel of righteousness, cracked the solid metal, causing the wizard of vehemence to implode. Coincidentally, the table leg reflected off the leader's head and pierced the group sorcerer's flesh of bark and as the blackness spilt from him, a shockwave discharged around the room shaking everything. The occupants were visibly weaker. I knew I had almost succeeded.

To escape was difficult. The door had liquefied then solidified after all the cracks and crevasses around the exit had been filled in. It was all a part of the black magic that was so putrid it could be felt clogging up the air with an execrable stench. After pounding the door about four times I kicked it down. That is when I made my escape; I made sure I would never go near that room again. I knew that the Grand Wizard was still after me, to punish me for my unspeakable deed, whatsoever it happened to be. All that mattered, though, at that moment was that I had triumphed.

The ringing made me open my eyes. I looked around the room to find many awaking as I had. I shot up erect as I realized that this room was the very room from which I had just escaped. But as I looked around, everything was as it should have been, comparing it to the days prior to this one. Several kids in the room were speaking fervently about a dream they had had. Remarkably, the stories sounded very similar. Everyone just had their own take. As I gathered my backpack I looked around once more. Nate was heading out and his neighbor was wide awake too. The bearded boy and the chemistry geek had also apparently been awake for a while, or they did not sleep. The Shah boy was still knocked out. I realized then that his particular counterpart disappeared but I glimpsed him several times throughout my ordeal.
Coincidentally, all those already having been up were the real-life counterparts of those, who in my undeniable experience, had fallen to me.

As I exited the room, I glanced in one last time. It couldn't have been real. It had to have been real. After continuing my day to its end, I thought to myself that night before falling asleep to start a new identical day, this most atypical thing was just a part of a typical day. The circumstance when I awoke in class demanded that it was all a hallucination. Either way, I did not see things the same. I became a monster in that "dream," an animal. As I begin my day tomorrow, I will not forget about becoming a Manimal.

BACKGROUND **INFO**

SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCES: FORMER STUDENT DAVID SAMPLES
DREAM COLLEGE: NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
INTENDED MAJOR: BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
MUSIC INFLUNCES: LIL' WAYNE, SLIM SHADY, JAY SEAN

Drive: A Cinematic Work of Art

FUELED BY A TOUR-DE-FORCE PERFOMANCE FROM RYAN GOSLING, DRIVE IS A MODERN DAY MASTERPIECE THAT BLENDS DANISH CINEMA WITH CLASSIC L.A. CRIME NOIR AND A TOUCH OF EXESTENTIALISM. REVIEWING THIS FILM ARE: CONNOR O'HARA, JOE JANIZEK, AND JOE LAUGHLIN. A.K.A : LWG

By LWG
Surplus Contributors

—

One of the great, or not so great, things about American cinema is our love for crime, violence, and over all destruction. For many people all these things are a generic recipe for a summer block-buster, or other usual movie sensation that is never very well critically received or adored. I'm looking at you Transformers. However, with Nicolas Winding Refn's new film, Drive, Refn takes the typical American cinematic experience and makes it atypical. Drive has not only received widespread critical acclaim and adoration but is already being hailed as a classic and one of greatest movies of 2011.

Drive stars Ryan Gosling as an "man with no name" type of character. His character is credited and referred to as Driver. This is becomes all Ryan Gosling's character does is, well, drive. Drivers job is a unique one. He is a special effects car driver for movies in Los Angeles. His internal ability to understand how cars work, and utilize them to the best of his ability is what makes him even more successful as his next job. Driver's job is as a get away driver for thieves and criminals who want to carry out petty jobs in the streets of Los Angeles during the night. Now while this may sound immoral and wrong, Drive does have a code. Driver does not go into the home, store, or building while the thugs rob the place dry. Driver does not carry a gun. All driver does is, you guessed it drive.

The surprising thing about this film is that it is not at all how it is being advertised to be. Drive is being sold as just another racing car action flick when in reality there are only two car chases throughout the entire movie (sorry to disappoint you).

What really sets drive apart from all other movies this year is the beautiful cinematography and camera shots that accompany the story. Los Angeles has never looked the way it does in this movie. Refn has truly made one of the best looking movie sin a long time.

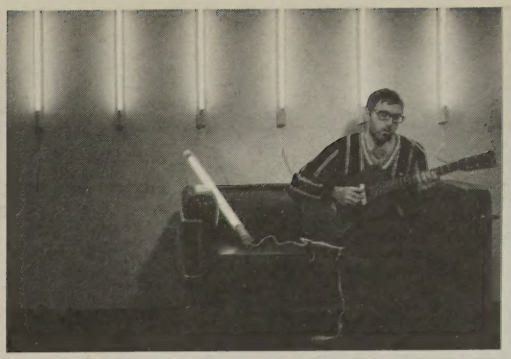
Anyway, back to the story line. Driver, as previously stated, does his moonlighting gig for a while until his friend, Shannon, played by the magnificent Bryan Cranston, comes to him with a job opportunity. What's the opportunity? To team up with Bernie Rose, played by Albert Brooks, to be the driver of a race car that will be sponsored by Rose. The only problem is that Rose is one of the slimiest mobsters in L.A. and has just got done beating up the father and husband of Driver's neighbors.

The woman in this love triangle is played by Carrey Mulligan and is played very well for a woman with few lines and few emotions to show other then being the damsel in distress. However, it is not the woman tat Driver seems to bond with, but rather her son. Up until this point in the film Driver has appeared stoic, and unemotional towards just about everyone. Again, this is a terrific performance by Gosling. So, once Driver realizes that this young boy's father, who has recently returned home from prison, is getting beaten to a pulp by mobsters whom Driver is essentially making money for. . . well, to put things lightly: Driver goes berserk.

Drive is more then just a car movie. Are cars a part of it? Yes, of course. But really the movie is about what "drives" us as human beings to do the things we do, and just how okay we are we those things. Taking typical L.A. Noir type films, mashing them with a glorious 80's sound track, and shooting it in one of the most visually satisfying styles of any movie in recent memory, Refn has created a film that will catapult him into greatness and hopefully a few Oscar nominations.

Overall, Drive is an existential masterpiece. It deals heavily with human nature in general (a reference to Drive's incredibly B.A. gold scorpion jacket comes to mind) and what exactly motivates us to do what we do. The whole cast in this film gives stellar performances. There is not one thing that is wrong with Drive. The music, which has a very retro and techno feel to it, blends perfectly with the dark and foreboding street life that Refn portrays. Drive will soon go on to become a classic, much like the works Tarantino. Drive will be studied and analyzed and be taught in every film class from here on out not only for it's beauty and visual techniques, but also for the deeper story that it portrays to the audience without the audience realizing how deep what they're seeing truly is. Drive is a work of art.

Little HELL



Joe Janizek reviews City and Colour's new mellow album

By Joe Janizek
Surplus Contributor

—

It's album three for Dallas Green's folksy alias, City and Colour, and the sound has taken a different direction. While not entirely departing from the minimalist acoustic formula that led to the success of Sometimes and Bring Me Your Love, Little Hell features the fullest instrumentation of Green's solo project to date.

Kicking off with "We Found Each Other in the Dark," Little Hell has a slightly different feel from City and Colour's previous albums. The slide guitar and slow, swing drums give the song a feel that is more "country" than anything he has done before. As the album moves on to "Natural Disaster," the heavier instrumentation continues, although the song features a more traditional indie rock structure.

This change in sound may please some fans, but it lacks some of the raw emotion found in some of his previous songs. The stripped-down, acoustic-folk structure was the perfect platform for Green's unique voice, leaving the focus on his high-reaching vocal melodies and melancholy, often nostalgic lyrics.

That's not to say that the new formula isn't strong at times. In fact, sometimes it works incredlby well; It just doesn't sound like the City and Colour of previous albums. "Fragile Bird," one of the most original tracks on Little Hell is upbeat and nearly danceable, with a heavily distorted rhythm guitar-backed verse. The music isn't the most initially apparent backing for lyrics about Green's wife's night terrors, but upon continued listening, it just seems to fit.

Other songs seem to be more similar in composition to tracks from previous albums. "The Grand Optimist" is probably the closest to sharing the aesthetic quality of earlier works, and manages to be almost as weary and wistful. But something seems to be missing. It lacks that immediately moving quality of power that tracks like "Sleeping Sickness" and "Comin' Home" shared.

The best song by a significant margin, however, is the title track. "Little Hell" starts out with only vocals and acoustic guitar, and building as drums, electric guitar, and additional vocals are added, the song increases in power and excitement throughout. At what is probably the highlight of the entire album, "Little Hell" reaches its climax to Green's harmonized question: "Will we get out of this Little Hell?"

Little Hell is a good album. It's even pretty close to a great one. But it's a different one from City and Colour's previous work. The music is beautifully written, and emotionally stirring at times. The only problem with the album is that the more instrumented and traditional arrangements, however, do not accentuate Green's musical strengths in the same way that the songs on Sometimes and Bring Me Your Love could.

PERFORMANCE **BRIEFS**

WHO: Badfish
WHERE: Piere's
WHEN: October 15
TIME: 8:00 pm
TICKETS: $50

WHO: Reba McEntire
WHERE: Allen County War Memorial
WHEN: October 14
TIME: 7:30 pm
TICKETS: $50

WHO: Newsboys
WHERE: Allen County War Memorial
WHEN: October 15
TIME: 6:00 pm
TICKETS: $45

WHO: Third Day
WHERE: Embassy Theatre
WHEN: October 21
TIME: 6:00 pm
TICKETS: $43.30 - $49.15

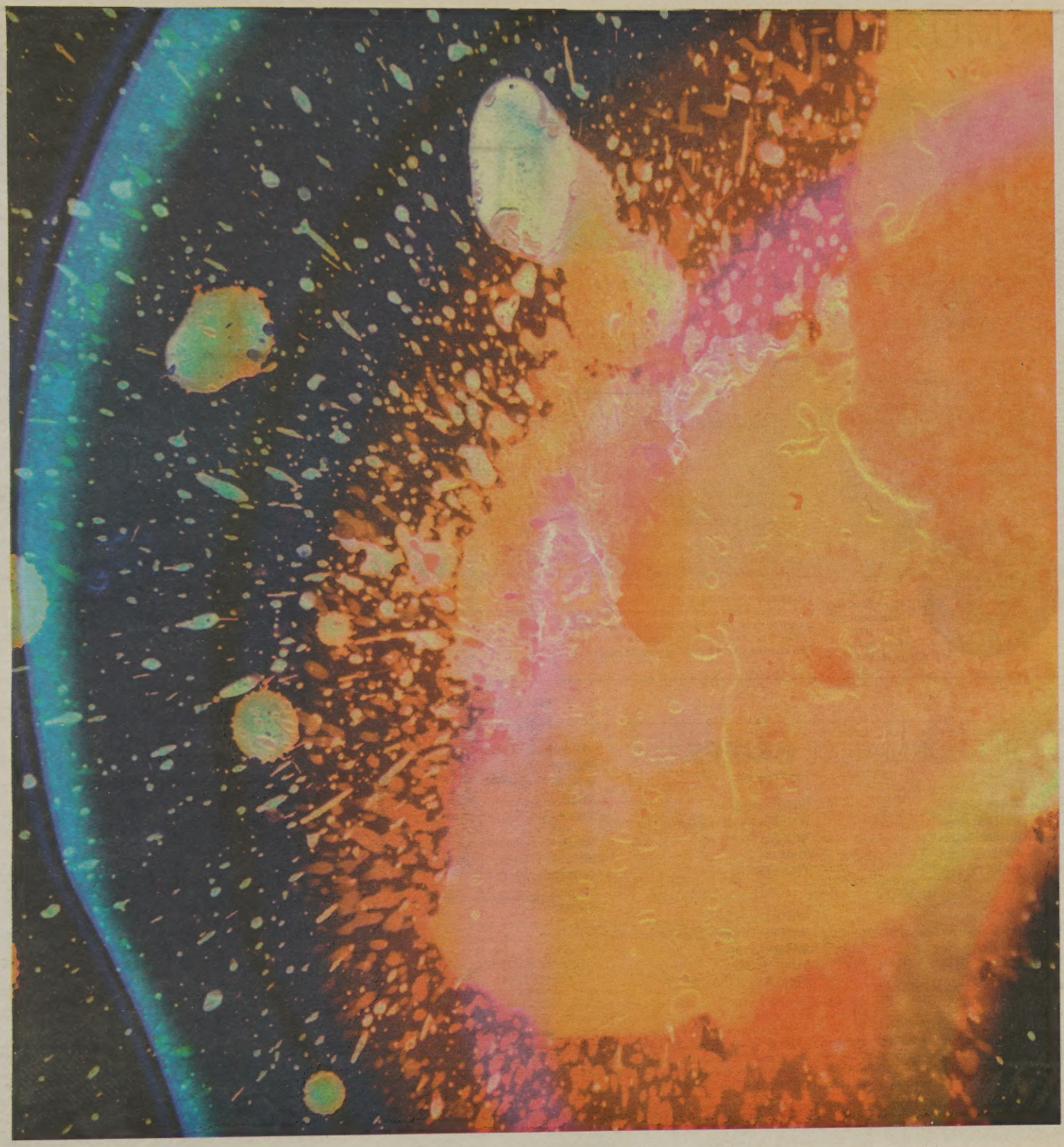
WHO: Straight No Chaser
WHERE: Allen County War Memorial
WHEN: October 30
TIME: 7:00 pm
TICKETS: $45

WHO: Bryan Adams
WHERE: Embassy Theatre
WHEN: November 8
TIME: 8:00 pm
TICKETS: $35

THE **CHARTS**

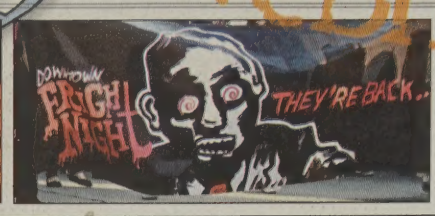
as of october twelfth, two thousand eleven

1. **Duets II**
   -- Tony Bennett
2. **Own The Night**
   -- Lady Antebellum
3. **21**
   -- Adele
4. **Unbroken**
   -- Demi Lovato
5. **Tha Carter IV**
   -- Lil' Wayne
6. **The Reckoning**
   -- Needtobreathe
7. **#1 Girl**
   -- Mindless Behavior
8. **Sweeter**
   -- Gavin DeGraw
9. **Watch The Throne**
   -- Jay-Z & Kanye West
10. **Pearl Jam Twenty**
    -- Pearl Jam
11. **Here For A Good Time**
    -- George Strait
12. **Coast to Coast**
    -- Cody Simpson
13. **My Kinda Party**
    -- Jason Aldean
14. **Torches**
    -- Foster the People
15. **I'm With You**
    -- Red Hot Chili Peppers
16. **Halfway To Heaven**
    -- Gilbert
17. **1**
    -- The Beatles
18. **Major/Minor**
    -- Thrice
19. **Heritage**
    -- Opeth
20. **Now 39**
    -- Various Artists



the SPARTANA

(Halloween Edition)



issue four
volume forty two
publications department
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana

Thursday, October 27, 2011 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

Five students earn National Merit Semi-Finalist honors

ALISON MANSFIELD
Life Co-Editor

Five National Semi-Finalists were recently selected for their outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. Joe Janizek (12), Scott Kelly (12), Aaron Lilley (12), Sarah Mattson (12) and Jacqueline Smith (12) are among 16,000 academically-gifted seniors who will have the opportunity to compete for some 8,300 National Merit scholarships, worth $34 million.

Although more than 1.5 million juniors in approximately 22,000 U.S. high schools took the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT), less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors comprise the group of national semi-finalists.

"I was naturally really surprised and proud of myself," Mattson (12) said concerning this prestigious designation. "[Being named a National Merit Semi-Finalist makes me feel] nothing more or less than pride for my accomplishment. It doesn't mean I'm a genius or anything, but it's quite an honor."

Only 323 Indiana students were named National Merit Semi-Finalists. To earn National Merit Semi-Finalist status, students must first be identified as National Merit Commended Students. Critical Reading, Writing, and Math scores are totaled to ascertain a raw score out of a possible 240. To be named commended scholars, students must exceed the initial cut-off score of 200.

Eleven National Merit Commended Students included Rebecca Brown (12), Thomas Kelly (12), Song Kim (12), Nicholas Litchin (12), Priya Parikh (12), James Pennetta (12), Samara Reiter (12), Megan Romelfanger (12), Christopher Spedden (12), Varsha Venkatakrishna (12), and Ying Wang (12).

After receiving this commendation, to be named semi-finalists, students must meet or surpass a statewide cut-off score, which for Indiana, was 214 this year.

To achieve the next level of recognition, National Merit Finalist, these five students must complete the National Merit Semi-Finalist application, which includes an essay, academic information provided by the high school, and submissions of SAT scores which

▸▸ SEE 'SCHOLARS,' PAGE 3

BY THE NUMBERS

16,000	National Merit Semi-Finalists
8,300	National Merit Scholarships
214	Minimum score for Semi-Finalists
210	Minimum score for Commended Scholars
5	Number of Homestead student Semi-Finalists
1	Percent of students qualified as Semi-Finalists

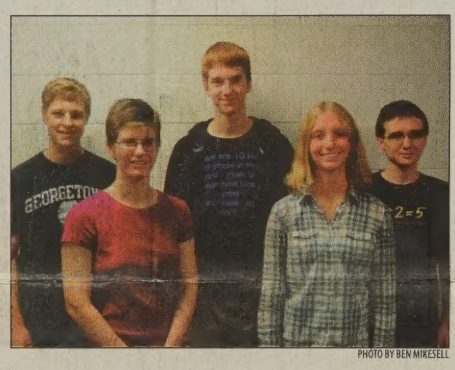


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

From left to right are the Semi-Finalist seniors: Joe Janizek, Jacqueline Smith, Aaron Lilley, Sarah Mattson, Scott Kelley.

Occupy Fort Wayne lacks effective plan

RYAN BOYLAN
Opinion Co-Editor

Where any degree of entrepreneurial freedom is to be found, there is sure to be a certain degree of corruption and exploitation on businesses' part as well. And in the ninth most economically free country in the world, there is more than enough injustice and fiscal manipulation to complain about if you are the one being exploited; which is why it's hard to believe that the most recent battle against crony capitalism has been waged by a rebel force without an apparent cause.

Occupy Fort Wayne is a recently formed tributary of Occupy Wall Street, a burgeoning movement targeted at exposing shady relationships between big business and politics and taking back political power for the 99% of Americans that are not experiencing the same exponential economic growth that the top 1% of income earners are. However, like many other grassroots movements springing up throughout the country as a result of recent economic unrest, Occupy Fort Wayne seems to be lacking one integral aspect of a convincing protest movement: a substantial action plan to achieve its vague goals.

The ideals and intentions of the movement are completely respectable. At the surface, the novel idea of rallying against oppressive businesses seems completely necessary to fiscal equality, especially when much of the burden of recent years' economic decline has fallen on the shoulders of the jobless working class rather than the wealthy upper class. However, the movement as a whole has taken no pragmatic steps to achieving said equality, doing little more than demanding that bankers and politicians pull some magic curtain to reveal where the dried up wealth and job opportunities really went.

And although based on vague objectives, the means of the Wall Street movement at least seem somewhat coherent, protesting the upper class by directly confronting the wealth and greed associated with Wall Street bankers and the big businesses

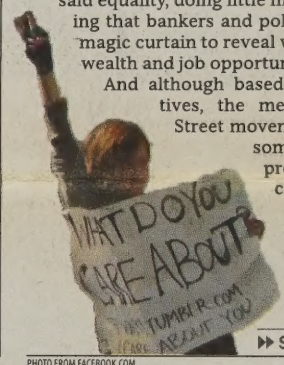


PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK.COM

▸▸ SEE 'OCCUPY,' PAGE 2

Smoke detected at school during storm

TORI BARNARD
News Editor

At around 4:30 Monday morning, smoke set off a fire alarm near the cafeteria, setting off an automatic dialer that alerted the fire and sheriff's departments to respond. Several fire crews rushed to the building.

Although local news channels reported that smoke was in the cafeteria, this information is false, according to Maintenance Engineer Pete Carteaux. The cause of the smoke was not a fire in the cafeteria; an explosion within a component of a small exit sign over the recently renovated ramp next to the cafeteria caused

▸▸ SEE 'SMOKE,' PAGE 2

PHOTO FROM WANETV.COM

A team of firefighters rushed to the school as smoke was deteced in the cafeteria. The cause of the smoke remains unknown.

Pro-Life Club evokes controversy

Students debate while club seeks administrative approval

JOE JANIZEK
Co-Editor-In-Chief

A potentially controversial club is undergoing the approval process by administrators, following careful consideration and planning.

The club, which would focus on the topics of abortion and the pro-life movement, aims to provide facts that would persuade students to adopt a similar position, according to the club's founder.

"I want the club to be a place to offer information and to connect students with the pro-life community if they so choose, and to help them find out what's going on [with the issue] scientifically, philosophically and politically," Pro-Life Club founder Nicole Decrisio (12) said.

Decrisio was inspired to found the club after attending a seminar held over the summer by Scott Klusendorf, author of The Case for Life.

"He said, 'We don't have to win people over, just place a pebble in their shoe so that they can examine it on their own later,'" Decrisio said.

If approved, the club would open up the school to a debate over abortion.

"The thing with school law is that once you open up your school to one point of view, you also open it up to the opposing view," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said. "I'll compare it to youth pastors at lunch: once you let one come in, your school has to be open to representatives from any other religion."

The hypothetical inclusion of opposing clubs would not be a negative, according to Decrisio.

"One of the important things is to have diverse ideas, that way they can come together and have a place to share the opposing ideas and have more information," Decrisio said.

Other members of the student body agreed with Decrisio, citing the need

▸▸ SEE 'CLUB,' PAGE 2

THE GREAT DEBATE

"I want the club to be a place to offer information and to connect students with the pro-life community if they so choose."

NICOLE DECRISIO (12)
Club Founder

"We're not old enough to be getting abortions, let alone protesting against them. They can verbalize [their beliefs] to their friends, but don't annoy people"

STEPHEN LIBBING (12)
Club Skeptic

BRIEFS

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY
The induction ceremony for new members will be held Nov. 3 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Seniors please send your baby photos to theslideshow.nhs@gmail.com.

ECA REVIEW SESSIONS
Algebra 1 ECA retake testing will be held Nov. 8 and 9. Math teachers are available to review with students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45-3:30 pm in Room 514.

STAND CLUB MEETINGS
STAND, the anti-genocide club, will meet every other Monday beginning Nov. 7 in room 123 after school until 3:15 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

FOOTBALL SECTIONALS
The football team will play at home Friday at 7:00 pm in Round II of the sectional tournament. Go to the athletic office to buy tickets.

Spartan hockey undefeated

Team starts season winning first three games

JACOB COOK
Writer

The boy's hockey team won its third victory of the year over Bishop Dwenger with a final score of 6-1 last week to improve their overall record to 3-0. The team is currently ranked at the top of Fort Wayne's city league and is one of the state's top teams.

Leading the team is junior Paul Lee (11). Lee is one of the team's top goal scorers and point leaders, and is recognized as a leader on the ice. Three games into the season, Lee has recorded three goals and eight assists. Tied with Lee for goals is Michael Haffner (12). Haffner has been a part of Homestead's team since his sophomore year and is making a significant impact on the team this year.

"It's been a lot of fun this year," Haffner said. "We're only three games in, but since we're missing a few guys, I know this year will go really well for us."

One of the missing players Haffner mentioned is Max Dvorak (11). Last year, Dvorak provided crucial assists and goals in the team's effort towards winning a third consecutive City Championship. Dvorak, who is a varsity member of the Cross Country team, has not been able to join the hockey team in their games due to the cross country team's post season success.

"It's been hard not playing, but I have to keep my legs fresh for [Cross Country]," Dvorak said.

The team is looking this year towards winning a fourth consecutive City Championship. They are the only undefeated team in the Fort Wayne ISHSHA Hockey league. Rival Carroll, the team's strongest oppo-

▸▸ SEE 'HOCKEY,' PAGE 3

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN LEE

Paul Lee (11) starts an attack against Carroll.

Marching Band wins Semi-State

LAURA ZENG
Copy Editor

The band once again marches to ISSMA State Finals for the 25th time under Band Director Steve Barber, hoping to win first place, after winning ISSMA Semi-State on Saturday, October 23.

ISSMA State Finals will be held October 29 at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. All bands that qualified during Semi-State Contest will perform.

The band qualified as a State finalist during the ISSMA Semi-State Contest at Ben Davis High School. Other high schools that qualified for State include: Avon, Ben Davis, Carmel, Lawrence Central, Franklin Central, Lake Central, Center Grove, Castle and Penn. The band took first place, outranking rival school, Avon High School, which finished in second.

"Semi-State was beyond amazing," Stephanie Verhoff (11) said. "Everyone did so well and performed to the best of their abilities. It was by far the best performance I have ever been involved in with the Homestead Spartan Alliance Band."

The band has placed first in all competitions this year with the exception of regional competition, where they placed second. The band has experienced similar

▸▸ SEE 'BAND,' PAGE 3

Risqué Halloween costumes force children to grow up too fast

Annual Halloween traditions overshadowed by controversial teen, child costumes

SHANNON NYCUM
Writer

Students celebrate Halloween with the three main C's: candy, creepy movies and costumes. Enjoying Kit-Kats and Reese's, trick-or-treating and staying up late only to endure a sleepless night after watching Friday the 13th are all beloved traditions of Halloween. These customs never grow old, but costumes have been changing in negative ways and are defying the real spirit of Halloween by dressing up as sickening "sexy" demons and police women.

Oftentimes on the radio, advertisements for flirty, glamorous costumes will air. It's sad that the media is trying to make Halloween a time where one is supposed to dress in attractive ways. Costumes revealing too much cleavage are becoming more and more popular, and most likely these intentions are for attracting others, not for the enjoyment of dressing up as something spooky or silly. The media is to blame for most of this by expanding their range of customers to teenagers and even children.

> "Though people have a right to dress as they wish, others will still judge them."
>
> **SHANNON NYCUM**

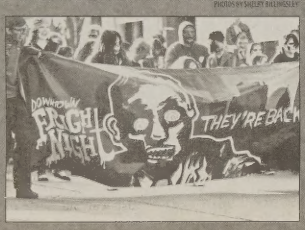
The majority of our generation is trying to be older too quickly. I recall the time when I was little, and it was popular to say the words "hang out" and wear make up like teenagers. I, along with several others, wanted to grow up already. It is rather shocking when teens wear such mature costumes during the upcoming holiday. Though people have a right to dress as they wish, others will still judge them.

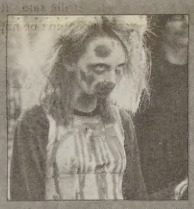
Recently, a new costume called "Anna Rexia" has been on and off the markets. "Anna Rexia" is a costume that was originally made to make fun of anorexia. The costume is a small black dress with the imprint of a skeleton and a measuring tape belt, but its attempts at humor are ill-placed. It seems to be that nowadays, Halloween is not about being spooky and having a good time, but about being sexy. This and costumes like "Anna Rexia" entirely miss the point of Halloween.

FRIGHT NIGHT 2011

Zombie Walk and other Fright Night events provide eerie enjoyment

PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY





Fright Night was held downtown over the past weekend. This night had many different events like a zombie walk that brought in a band and many participants this year.

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Grim, grinning ghosts socialized in the happy haunts that emerged in downtown Fort Wayne at the Fright Night Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Fright Night is an annual event that allows Fort Wayne residents to release their inner spook in a horde of fun and frightening activities, including a tour of the ghost-infested tunnels beneath the Embassy Theatre, a tour of the jail at the History Center, and a late night screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Botanical Conservatory. These eerie events were but a few activities in which students engaged last weekend.

The ghost tours at the Embassy Theater were a huge hit for students seeking to encounter specters lurking underneath the beloved Fort Wayne landmark.

"Even though the [ghost] tours were short, they were very interesting. I never knew Fort Wayne had so many haunted stories to it," Brad Sir Louis (11) said.

While journeying through the tunnels, Kira Clouse (11) said she experienced a horror movie first hand.

"The tunnels were really cool because there was an actual paranormal theme there," Clouse said. "It was kind of creepy walking around there."

But despite spooky alternatives, the highlight of Fright Night is undoubtedly the Zombie Walk, a gathering where Fort Wayne's decaying undead slink along Main Street in a parade of flesh and blood.

"My grandpa found out about the Zombie Walk in the newspaper, and I decided it was something I wanted to do, because, who doesn't love zombies?" Chloe Smith-Guitard (11), veteran Zombie-Walker, said.

Smith-Guitard has participated in this march of the living dead for the past three years and said the Zombie Walk gets her into the Halloween spirit.

"I love the Zombie Walk because you get to see people of all ages dressing up in very creative costumes," Smith-Guitard said. "This year there was even a family of murderous clowns."

While Allie Ciraza (10) was merely an observer, she too was able to enjoy watching the shrouded walkers emerge from their tombs for this community event.

"There are people who go all-out putting flesh on their face. It looks like they've come fresh out of the grave," Ciraza said.

Zombie Walkers exert all of their creativity to ensure the quality of their costumes and make the event as close as possible to an actual zombie apocalypse.

"There was a little kid there who looked like he had real sticks going through him with blood," Ciraza said.

However, while abundant, zombie guises are not compulsory. Though costumes are encouraged, there is no set dress code, so people with all sorts of Halloween outfits are welcome.

"There are people there with all different costumes," Smith-Guitard said. "Go as a zombie, a werewolf or an undead Spongebob. No one is going to care."

Smith-Guitard, who went as a demented rag doll, said she enjoys watching and meeting all the people lurking in the dark.

"Last year I went as a zombie, and I held a sign that said 'All we want to do is eat your brains. We're not unreasonable,' which is a line from a Jonathan Coulton song," Smith-Guitard said. "I met a bunch of random guys who knew the song, and we started a spontaneous zombie chorus."

Fright Night has sustained favorites such as the Zombie Walk; however, the event is always expanding and unveiling new and exciting activities.

"My first year they had coffin races. People turned coffins into go carts and raced them downthe street," Smith-Guitard said.

Both Sir Louis and Ciraza said they wish there would be a haunted house in the future.

Unlike the zombies the event celebrates and posthumously honors, due to popular demand, Fright Night will likely live to continue for years to come.

"Fright Night is a great way to experience Fort Wayne, all while getting into the Halloween spirit," Ciraza said.

This event is a fantastic forum for the freaks, phantoms, and ghouls of our city to gather in a celebration of all that is bizarre. Fort Wayne Fright Night is the perfect venue to discover the "spooktacular" spirit of Halloween within us all.

▶▶ PRO-LIFE
CONTINUED FROM 1

for debate.

"I think if there's a pro-life club, then a pro-choice club is only fair," John Hester (12) said. "Either side of the argument deserves to be heard, as with any controversy."

Still, other students questioned whether school was an appropriate forum to discuss abortion.

"We're not old enough to be getting abortions, let alone protesting against them," Stephen Libbing (12) said. "They can verbalize [their beliefs] to their friends, but don't annoy people."

Whether using the school as a forum is accepted by the student body or not, there will be people interested in using the club to express their views.

"Personally, I don't like involving myself in the pro-life versus pro-choice argument. I haven't really looked in depth in the subject enough to make a decision," Hester said. "I'm sure there are plenty of students that would be interested though."

The exact nature of the pro-life movement may be misunderstood, something which Decrisio hopes to correct.

"Usually, when people think of the term 'pro-life,' they automatically think abortion, but pro-life entails so much more than that," Decrisio said. "It includes topics like euthanasia, genocide and assisted suicide. I want to change this misconception."

Pro-life club will still need to go though a series of steps to gain full administrative approval. At the first meeting, the number of attendees will be recorded to help determine the level of student interest and decide if the club will gain official recognition.

"The number of students required has varied depending on the type of club," Bay said. "The administration needs to feel that there's enough of an interest in the club so that it's sustainable and worth the school's investment."

If the club receives this recognition, the advisor will receive a stipend from the school. Even if it does not, however, the club could continue on with an unofficial status.

▶▶ OCCUPY
CONTINUED FROM 1

they represent. However, the Fort Wayne movement is a bit less sensible, protesting in odd places around town where its tumult goes unheard by the businesses and greedy aristocrats it protests.

Upon visiting the Occupy Fort Wayne website, one can find a list of countless items that Occupy Fort Wayne protestors are in need of at their current campsite at Headwaters Park, followed by hyped-up rallying cries about how it is each citizen's duty to come protest with them. However, it seems that the site is lacking a list of current goals to achieve by protesting at the same place for weeks on end and begging others for donations.

Occupy Fort Wayne has already degenerated into a movement that hurts rather than helps all of those involved. Ironically, in an attempt to protest their own lowly economic status, they have ended up groveling at the feet of public sympathizers for food with their livelihood completely subject to the will of other philanthropists. If the movement has any real chance of survival, it must take action–real, political action.

When faced with criticism for their lack of a clear goal, leaders of the movement have often claimed that it is because there is such a large spectrum of qualms that must be resolved. But the fact that they can't do everything at once doesn't mean they should do nothing at all. If they want reduced local taxes on the lower class or more welfare programs, they should petition. If they want to be treated fairly and given a respectable wage, then they should confront businesses by unionizing or joining a union. And with such vast support–over 1700 followers on Facebook and 300 on Twitter–the Fort Wayne Movement should have no problem getting the ball rolling once it concentrates its will power into a legitimate effort for change.

▶▶ SMOKE
CONTINUED FROM 1

the smoke which triggered the fire alarm.

"This was a pretty minor issue," Carteaux said.

Although the cause of this incident is not certain, it was most likely the result of a large lightning strike nearby the school during the storm that occurred that morning; however, there is no evidence that the building itself was struck by lightning.

Those responders within the building followed protocol by making sure the building was clear, then going to the location to see what set the system off and eventually making any needed repairs. Although an automatic dialer makes a series of calls to certain staff members during this sort of incident, the third shift custodial staff notified those that the dialer could not get ahold of.

"By the time I got here there were already other people from school that had arrived," Carteaux said. "[This kind of situation] is why we're here. We're on call for that kind of stuff."

In order to insure the safety of students, the exit sign was replaced, and all of the wiring connected to it was checked to make sure it was operating properly.

Staff members involved in determining whether the school was safe for students attend classes after this event were pleased with the actions taken after the alarm was set off.

the SPARTANA
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Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

PHOTOS BY BEN MAESAKA

Four members of the girls' varsity team huddles together after the last minutes of their successful season regional game against Leo pass and their hopes for the post-season end with the loss at this game.

Girls' soccer win NHC, Sectional, finish season with tough loss to Leo

After a long and successful set of games and practices, the girls' varsity soccer team has ended their season as conference and sectional champions. The loss to Leo (2-0) at the regional game made for a disappointing conclusion.

The second to last game against Huntington North (6-0) had a normal flow and was an easy win for the team. On the contrary, their final game against Leo led to a heated disagreement when one of the referees made a controversial call. Towards the end of the game, Emily Bley (11) scored a goal with her head off of a corner kick made by team captain, Ashley Steiner (12), but it was not counted due to the fact that Bley was pushed.

"That goal would have changed the whole game," Lindsay Link (12) said.

Despite the cause oftheir semi-regional loss, the team stayed composed and focused throughout the remainder of the game.

"[That game], in the end showed how close we became as a team and how good we can be just as long as we keep things calm on the field and rely on each other," Steiner said.

During the season, much credit was given to sophomore, Hannah Miller, who helped immensely as a defender. as well as Miller, Morgan Cole (10) assisted in anchoring the defense with two seniors and a junior. This group only allowed nine goals from opposing teams throughout the whole year.

"We went into every game confident and determined to do our best," Link said. "Although we lost a couple, we always kept our heads up."

Overall, this season the team accomplished their main goals of defeating Carroll and winning conference and sectionals. They had hopes of moving deeper into the post season, but the team's recent loss cut their season short. The success of this year sets high standards for the underclassmen on the team next year.

"[The last games] proved that we have come a long way from the beginning of our season. Unfortunately we will graduate a great group of seniors, but these games made returning players for next year motivated to come back stronger," coach, Katie Metz said.

-Haiden Steingass

Boys' soccer finishes season with NHC title, followed by a hard loss to Carroll

The boys soccer team concluded their season with a loss to Carroll in their regional final. The team had beaten East Noble 1-0 to advance to the final, where they lost to Carroll 1-0 in overtime.

The team had success early in their championship season. They won another NHC Conference championship and secured another sectional title as well. The sectional championship game was one of the most thrilling of the season, as the team triumphed over NHC opponent Columbia City. The game's final score of 10-0 showed the dominance the team carried with them throughout the season.

Their final regular season record of 14-3-0 left them as one of the top seeded teams in the state.

Confidence was high for the team going into the regional tournament. Their victory over East Noble came from a goal that East Noble accidentally scored on themselves.

"Obviously it wasn't how we wanted to win," Frankie Zirille (12) said. Zirille was one of this years team captains and a senior, and a leader to the team on the field.

Unfortunately, the team failed to score on Carroll. A fiercely fought battle in regulation time where neither team scored led to a stalemate and forced overtime. In the first half of overtime, Carroll scored to take a 1-0 lead and clinch a regional championship. "It was extremely disappointing," Alex Moore (12) said. Moore was another one of the team's seniors and was upset with the conclusion of the season.

"We just didn't think things would go the way they did. We knew we were a better team, but things just didn't turn out that way," Moore said.

The seniors on this year's team are optimistic about the future of the team. The huge amount of returning talent and leadership provides a sigh of relief to the seniors, knowing they are leaving the team in good hands.

"I'm excited to follow the guys next year," Moore said. "There's a lot of talent and leadership with them, and they'll be a really fun team to watch play.'

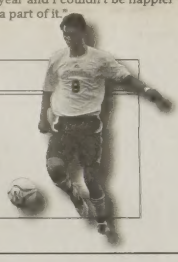
"We didn't just win our sectional, we dominated. 10-0, that's a final score to remember. I know I will," Zirille said. "It was an awesome year and I couldn't be happier to have been a part of it."

-Jacob Cook

THE FINAL SCORE

girls' VARSITY
Top Players:
Goals: Allison Link-4
Assists: Madison Kloster-2
Shots: Kelsey Wendlandt-5
Saves: Megan Romelfanger-12
Minutes: Megan Romelfanger-220
7-4-1

boys' VARSITY
Top Players:
Goals: Jacob Welbaum-11
Assists: Nick Anderson-7
Shots: Jacob Welbaum-23
Saves: Austin Williams-22
Minutes: Chris Anderson-87
17-4-0



▸▸ SCHOLARS
CONTINUED FROM 1

must be consistent with their PSAT performance.

"[Being named a National Merit Semi-Finalist] is an honor, and it means I'm doing well and am on the right track," Jacqueline Smith (12) said. "It is also an opportunity to get scholarships, which is very helpful."

Even more helpful, perhaps, than the National Merit Scholarship itself is the potential to earn other scholarships.

"[National Merit acknowledgement] is only one way to get money for college, and it isn't 'big bucks'," counselor Amy Hamilton said. "The recognition is nice, and that is what can get you noticed by universities and colleges who want to recruit National Merit Scholar recipients. That is where you can get scholarship money."

In the past, three Homestead National Merit Finalists were recruited by the University of Alabama and given full rides to attend.

Although the PSAT is only one test given on one day, outstanding performance can lead to recognition and lucrative scholarship opportunities. All of these students will likely excel at both the collegiate and professional levels.

"I knew all of the other scholars from elementary school, and they are very competitive academically." Smith said. "I think [being recognized] means these students have the wherewithal to become National Merit Semi-Finalists and that they display a lot of potential."

▸▸ HOCKEY
CONTINUED FROM 1

nent last year, has fallen to 1-2 early in the season due to the loss of several seniors. The team is directly followed by Leo (2-1) and Snider (2-1), who the team delivered both of their losses to.

This week, the team is taking on Northrop in a League game at the CanLan Ice Arena, a brand new facility that was first used by the team last year. Upcoming crossover games, where the team plays teams outside of Fort Wayne's league, include St. Joe, Marion, and Chatard.

As of now, the teams outlook on the rest of the regular season is positive. "We're still working on team chemistry," Haffner said. "It's the most important thing for any hockey team to have, regardless of talent." While Haffner believes that the team is playing well right now, the absence of key players is holding them back from their true potential as a dominant force in the state.

Abnormal holiday treats result in shock

Reflections on strangest trick-or-treating handouts, experiences

BY WILLIAM NGO
Writer

Although trick-or-treaters are socially compelled to ask "Trick or treat" on Halloween night, they usually expect a form of candy in their open bags. It may not seem like a question, but some unlucky trick-or-treaters discovered that it truly is.

Charlie Dewey (10) said he had to find this out the hard way when the counter was a trick. Dewey approached the door of a home and anticipated a sweet, as he was accustomed to from previous houses and years. When he rang the doorbell, an empty-handed man opened the door to greet him and reached a hand inside Dewey's bag, taking the candy and darting off. The man ran around the yard, leaving Dewey stumped as to what he should do. After a few minutes though, the man was seized, returned the same candy, and went back inside. In most cases, however, the standard Halloween ritual is interrupted when unusual goodies wind up in the assortment found in their bags.

Nick Dellinger (10) was able to experience a classic moment from It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown one Halloween. Instead of a sugary treat, he said that he received a rock – an item that children never hope to receive. However, because of his Halloween spirit, Dellinger was not set back by the rock and continued to enjoy his experience.

While trick-or-treating one year, it was neither a Kit-Kat nor Snickers bar that found its way into Katie Krivacs' (10) hands, but a discount car wash card. She said that she was flustered and surprised to receive the unexpected treat.

> "I would sometimes prefer a trick than some of the treats I get."
>
> **DOMINIQUE SIERRA (10)**
> *Trick-or-Treater*

When Carly Hamilton (10) dressed up and adventured out to gather candy, she received a toothbrush from one household. However, she said that the main objective that night was to get a sugar fix, not to worry over dental hygiene.

"I was mad, because I wanted some candy," Hamilton said.

Chocolate, the prominent type of indulgence, is commonly handed out on Halloween – but perhaps one should remember to be cautious of what they receive as Alex Weaver (10) learned after a particular incident. Instead of chocolate candy, Weaver received chocolate flavored laxatives - a substance that speeds up the digestive system. Not aware of what they were, Weaver devoured the deceptive food and received instant stomach troubles.

"Let's just say, that night ended early," Weaver said.

A vegetable being handed out at Halloween seems ridiculous, but Clayton McClain (10) said he had to undergo such an experience. He was handed a potato, a contrast to the rest of his sugary collection. McClain, uninterested, returned the spud and continued onto the next house.

Even though occasionally unsuspecting individuals receive a trick, some may be better off than others in terms of treats received, such as a small plastic flute.

"I would sometimes prefer a trick than some of the treats I get," Dominique Sierra (10) said.

▸▸ BAND
CONTINUED FROM 1

success in previous years, placing third at State last year and placing in the top four at State for the past 21 years.

"[The season] started out rocky because we have a huge freshman class, and it was an experience teaching them all the stuff they need to know," Allison Murray (12), flute player, said. "But as the season has gone on, we have all bonded with each other and proven that we can accomplish anything."

The band's recent success at Semi-State bodes well for the band's performance at State because the winning band at Semi-State tends to win State as well.

"I firmly believe that we have a shot at winning it all this year," Murray said. "After the outcome from last week, we know that we are capable of placing first."

To prepare for State Finals, the band continues practicing, perfecting both the musical and visual aspects of its show throughout the week. The day of the competition the band will have a short practice.

"We are practicing like crazy. This week is going to be really intense," Becca Brown (12), clarinet player, said. "We have a lot of potential, but we have to work hard to accomplish our goals at State."

This year's show, Children of the Sun, lasts eight and a half minutes and is the "peppiest" of the bands shows in recent years. It features original music and music by Pink Floyd as well as large visuals from the color guard.

"The design of the show is very strong; the color guard and visuals are very strong," Assistant Band Director Brad Wadkins said. "The music is very strong."

The show is coordinated around a giant sunburst tarp in the center of the football field.

"Visually, we make a lot of circles and rays with various dance moves," Courtney Winters, mellophone player, (12) said. "And the tarp sun is gorgeous when the real sun hits it. The brilliant yellows and oranges are a good contrast to our blue and black uniforms."

ISSMA State Finals marks the end of the band season, creating mixed emotions amongst band members.

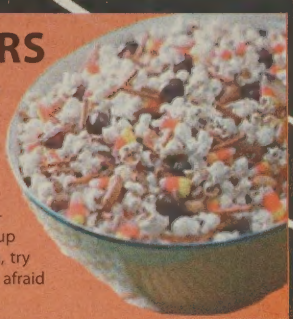
"It's really sad knowing [State] is my last competition," Brown said. "I'm not sure what it will be like once it's over, but my guess is that it will be bittersweet. I don't want it to be the end, but I've put in my fair share of hours for the program, and I'm looking forward to watching my friends pick up the torch and continue the traditions."

fear factor

By Priya Parikh and Lauren Purlee
Feature Editor and Copy Editor

Halloween is commonly known as a holiday for children to dress up in outrageous costumes, collect as much candy as their makeshift pillowcases can hold, and spend the night sorting their gatherings or swapping candy with friends. However, along with the standard festivities that accompany the spooky holiday, the time around Halloween is often spent watching the most recent gory, terrifying films made, or visiting haunted houses and jails. Although many individuals prefer a Halloween spent passing out candy and enjoying creative costumes that children have created, there are always daring people willing to go to extremes to have the most haunting experiences on Halloween. The Eight Levels of Terror of Halloween are activities that people participate in of varying levels of fright. That said, only few have been brave enough to make it to the last few levels. These Eight Levels of Terror are sure to provide a challenge to you and your friends and can be an indicator of how much you can handle on Halloween.

the TRICK-OR-TREATERS & the PARTIERS



Most people tend to mash into at least one of these common demographics at some point in their Halloween season. Though each year they are two of the most heavily populated groups, neither the Trick-or-Treaters nor the Partiers understand the true spirit of Halloween (which is to scare yourself stiff). No, instead of embracing the natural terror of this season, these people are busy separating their Milky Ways from their Snickers. Instead of seeking out excitement on ghost hunts and haunted hikes, these people are hiking up their sailor costumes. I give them props; it takes creativity to make Dora the Explorer look scandalous. Unfortunately, creativity has nothing to do with bravery. Hence, the Partiers, along with the Trick-or-Treaters, are left in a tie for the lamest level of the Tower of Terror. If this is you, chances are you're perfectly content with the sugary sweet Halloween--if you are interested in kicking things up a notch this Halloween season, though, try carving a pumpkin (that is, if you aren't afraid to hold a carving knife).

the DISTURBED

While your effort is appreciated, if you can't handle a scary movie, don't force it. When everyone starts looking for a movie to watch this Halloween season, please, please don't suggest Disturbia. And don't even think about Prom Night or The Village. Just because you can find them under the "Horror" tab at your local Redbox does not make these films worthy of a berth in anyone's Halloween scary movie marathon. (My mom watched Disturbia. Trust me, it doesn't count.) It's totally understandable if you can't handle the latest slasher film, but don't deny your friends the fun of a few good old sleepless nights. This year, let them have their thrills--it's totally acceptable to excuse yourself to the next room until it's over. It's equally acceptable to bring your own form up alternative entertainment to keep yourself occupied. Not homework, because that will just get you teased...if you find yourself in this situation, your best bet is probably spending the time brushing up on your Catchphrase technique.

the COUCH HOPPERS

These people get their thrills from the scary movies that The Disturbed can't handle. While they do manage to sit in front of the TV screen from the starting credits to the ending credits, these people are no Purple Hearts. They generally watch in packs, because they are too afraid to watch anything alone lest the psycho from the film should somehow make it out of the screen and into their homes. While sometimes Level Four members can feign bravery during scary movies, inside they really aren't to far from the Disturbed. After the movies, they're known to freak out in that moment when the movie is over so the whole room is really dark, and can often be seen making grand leaps over basement couches to sprint up the stairs in these situations to escape the suddenly life-threatening environment of their dark basement. For these people, I suggest installing a Clapper; clap on, clap off, no couch-hopping necessary.

the "JACK THE GRIPPERS"

Poor old Jacks are probably the least spirited celebrators of Halloween. They hate all things scary, yet somehow their higher level friends always manage to drag them into situations they aren't prepared for. That girl in your group that kept grabbing your shoulder all the way through the Haunted Cave last weekend, the one you didn't even know? She didn't mean to be annoying, she's just a Jack. Notorious for latching on to anyone --even strangers-- for "protection" from the dangers of the Haunted Jail/Cave/etc., Jacks just can't help themselves. Try to give them a break, and just be glad you aren't one of them. And for all you Jacks out there, if you really can't avoid these spooky outings, a box of Depends should get you through the season just fine.

the THRILL SEEKERS

These Halloween lovers are sure to be spotted at the spookiest hot spots of the city. From abandoned lots to disturbing broken down houses, Thrill Seekers are out to find a buzz from the excitement of discovering haunted places. The abandoned milk bottling factory on Bass Road might seem too intimidating for some even during the daylight, but not for Level Seven members. Some of the bravest of the Thrill Seekers might even make their way to the 7 Floors of Hell in Cleveland, Ohio, where people make their way through "Blood Barn" and "Jigsaw's Revenge," just to name a few attractions. Stop by any of these spooky locations, and you'll be sure to run into some of these adventurous individuals.

the PRANKSTERS

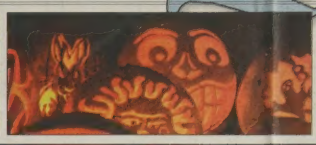
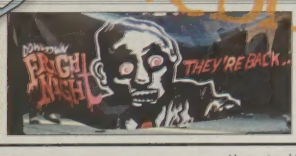
Whether it's dressing up as "ghost face" from the Scream thriller series or creeping up on someone with a gory mask on, these jokesters will bring out a blood curdling scream from anyone. They're often spotted on Halloween night, pulling pranks on younger children or even the elderly with their disturbing jokes and mischief. Try you might to avoid them, but they'll certainly be there to frighten you in the end.

the MISSING IN ACTION

One can only guess what these people do for Halloween, but none of them ever live to tell the tale. Some are known to go skydiving without parachutes; others are known to have gone ghost hunting or have visited the Mansfield Reformatory in Cleveland, Ohio, where prisoners and guards have previously died due to strange circumstances. Whatever it is they do, although their story may not exactly be known, their daring attributes are sure to be remembered.

the SPARTANA

(halloween edition)

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PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

Five students earn National Merit Semi-Finalist honors

ALISON MANSFIELD
Life Co-Editor

Five National Semi-Finalists were recently selected for their outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT. Joe Janizek (12), Scott Kelly (12), Aaron Lilley (12), Sarah Mattson (12) and Jacqueline Smith (12) are among 16,000 academically-gifted seniors who will have the opportunity to compete for some 8,300 National Merit scholarships, worth $34 million.

Although more than 1.5 million juniors in approximately 22,000 U.S. high schools took the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors comprise the group of national semi-finalists.

"I was naturally really surprised and proud of myself," Mattson (12) said concerning this prestigious designation. "[Being named a National Merit Semi-Finalist makes me feel] nothing more or less than pride for my accomplishment. It doesn't mean I'm a genius or anything, but it's quite an honor."

Only 323 Indiana students were named National Merit Semi-Finalists. To earn National Merit Semi-Finalist status, students must first be identified as National Merit Commended Students. Critical Reading, Writing, and Math scores are totaled to ascertain a raw score out of a possible 240. To be named commended scholars, students must exceed the initial cut-off score of 200.

Eleven National Merit Commended Students included Rebecca Brown (12), Thomas Kelly (12), Song Kim (12), Nicholas Litchin (12), Priya Parikh (12), James Pennetta (12), Samara Reiter (12), Megan Romelfanger (12), Christopher Spedden (12), Varsha Venkatakrishna (12), and Ying Wang (12).

After receiving this commendation, to be named semi-finalists, students must meet or surpass a statewide cut-off score, which for Indiana, was 214 this year.

To achieve the next level of recognition, National Merit Finalist, these five students must complete the National Merit Semi-Finalist application, which includes an essay, academic information provided by the high school, and submissions of SAT scores which

▸▸ SEE 'SCHOLARS,' PAGE 3

BY THE NUMBERS

16,000	National Merit Semi-Finalists
8,300	National Merit Scholarships
214	Minimum score for Semi-Finalists
210	Minimum score for Commended Scholars
5	Number of Homestead student Semi-Finalists
1	Percent of students qualified as Semi-Finalists

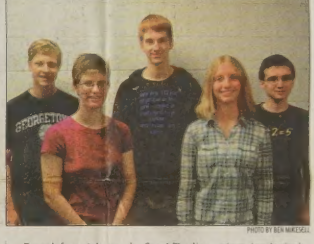


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

From left to right are the Semi-Finalist seniors: Joe Janizek, Jacqueline Smith, Aaron Lilley, Sarah Mattson, Scott Kelley.

Occupy Fort Wayne lacks effective plan

RYAN BOYLAN
Opinion Co-Editor

Where any degree of entrepreneurial freedom is to be found, there is sure to be a certain degree of corruption and exploitation on businesses' part as well. And in the ninth most economically free country in the world, there is more than enough injustice and fiscal manipulation to complain about if you are the one being exploited; which is why it's hard to believe that the most recent battle against crony capitalism has been waged by a rebel force without an apparent cause.

Occupy Fort Wayne is a recently formed tributary of Occupy Wall Street, a burgeoning movement targeted at exposing shady relationships between big business and politics and taking back political power for the 99% of Americans that are not experiencing the same exponential economic growth that the top 1% of income earners are. However, like many other grassroots movements springing up throughout the country as a result of recent economic unrest, Occupy Fort Wayne seems to be lacking one integral aspect of a convincing protest movement: a substantial action plan to achieve its vague goals.

The ideals and intentions of the movement are completely respectable. At the surface, the novel idea of rallying against oppressive businesses seems completely necessary to fiscal equality, especially when much of the burden of recent years' economic decline has fallen on the shoulders of the jobless working class rather than the wealthy upper class. However, the movement as a whole has taken no pragmatic steps to achieving said equality, doing little more than demanding that bankers and politicians pull some magic curtain to reveal where the dried up wealth and job opportunities really went.

And although based on vague objectives, the means of the Wall Street movement at least seem somewhat coherent, protesting the upper class by directly confronting the wealth and greed associated with Wall Street bankers and the big businesses

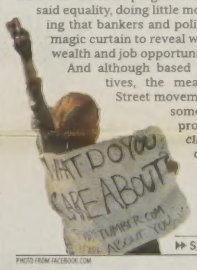


PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK.COM

▸▸ SEE 'OCCUPY,' PAGE 2

Smoke detected at school during storm

TORI BARNARD
News Editor

At around 4:30 Monday morning, smoke set off a fire alarm near the cafeteria, setting off an automatic dialer that alerted the fire and sheriff's departments to respond. Several fire crews rushed to the building.

Although local news channels reported that smoke was in the cafeteria, this information is false, according to Maintenance Engineer Pete Carteaux. The cause of the smoke was not a fire in the cafeteria; an explosion within a component of a small exit sign over the recently renovated ramp next to the cafeteria caused

▸▸ SEE 'SMOKE,' PAGE 2

PHOTO FROM WANE TV.COM

A team of firefighters rushed to the school as smoke was deteced in the cafeteria. The cause of the smoke remains unknown.

Pro-Life Club evokes controversy

Students debate while club seeks administrative approval

JOE JANIZEK
Co-Editor-In-Chief

A potentially controversial club is undergoing the approval process by administrators, following careful consideration and planning.

The club, which would focus on the topics of abortion and the pro-life movement, aims to provide facts that would persuade students to adopt a similar position, according to the club's founder.

"I want the club to be a place to offer information and to connect students with the pro-life community if they so choose, and to help them find out what's going on [with the issue] scientifically, philosophically and politically," Pro-Life Club founder Nicole Decrisio (12) said.

Decrisio was inspired to found the club after attending a seminar held over the summer by Scott Klusendorf, author of The Case for Life.

"He said, 'We don't have to win people over, just place a pebble in their shoe so that they can examine it on their own later,'" Decrisio said.

If approved, the club would open up the school to a debate over abortion.

"The thing with school law is that once you open up your school to one point of view, you also open it up to the opposing view," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said. "I'll compare it to youth pastors at lunch: once you let one come in, your school has to be open to representatives from any other religion."

The hypothetical inclusion of opposing clubs would not be a negative, according to Decrisio.

"One of the important things is to have diverse ideas, that way they can come together and have a place to share the opposing ideas and have more information," Decrisio said.

Other members of the student body agreed with Decrisio, citing the need

▸▸ SEE 'CLUB,' PAGE 2

THE GREAT DEBATE

"I want the club to be a place to offer information and to connect students with the pro-life community if they so choose."

NICOLE DECRISIO (12)
Club Founder

"We're not old enough to be getting abortions, let alone protesting against them. They can verbalize [their beliefs] to their friends, but don't annoy people"

STEPHEN LIBBING (12)
Club Skeptic

BRIEFS

NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY
The induction ceremony for new members will be held Nov. 3 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Seniors please send your baby photos to theslideshow.nhs@gmail.com.

ECA REVIEW SESSIONS
Algebra 1 ECA retake testing will be held Nov. 8 and 9. Math teachers are available to review with students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45-3:30 pm in Room 514.

STAND CLUB MEETINGS
STAND, the anti-genocide club, will meet every other Monday beginning Nov. 7 in room 123 after school until 3:15 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

FOOTBALL SECTIONALS
The football team will play at home Friday at 7:00 pm in Round II of the sectional tournament. Go to the athletic office to buy tickets.

Spartan hockey undefeated

Team starts season winning first three games

JACOB COOK
Writer

The boy's hockey team won its third victory of the year over Bishop Dwenger with a final score of 6-1 last week to improve their overall record to 3-0. The team is currently ranked at the top of Fort Wayne's city league and is one of the state's top teams.

Leading the team is junior Paul Lee (11). Lee is one of the team's top goal scorers and point leaders, and is recognized as a leader on the ice. Three games into the season, Lee has recorded three goals and eight assists. Tied with Lee for goals is Michael Haffner (12). Haffner has been a part of Homestead's team since his sophomore year and is making a significant impact on the team this year.

"It's been a lot of fun this year," Haffner said. "We're only three games in, but since we're missing a few guys, I know this year will go really well for us."

One of the missing players Haffner mentioned is Max Dvorak (11). Last year, Dvorak provided crucial assists and goals in the team's effort towards winning a third consecutive City Championship. Dvorak, who is a varsity member of the Cross Country team, has not been able to join the hockey team in their games due to the cross country team's post season success.

"It's been hard not playing, but I have to keep my legs fresh for [Cross Country]," Dvorak said.

The team is looking this year towards winning a fourth consecutive City Championship. They are the only undefeated team in the Fort Wayne ISHSHA Hockey league. Rival Carroll, the team's strongest oppo-

▸▸ SEE 'HOCKEY,' PAGE 3

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN LEE

Paul Lee (11) starts an attack against Carroll.

Marching Band wins Semi-State

LAURA ZENG
Copy Editor

The band once again marches to ISSMA State Finals for the 25th time under Band Director Steve Barber, hoping to win first place, after winning ISSMA Semi-State on Saturday, October 23.

ISSMA State Finals will be held October 29 at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. All bands that qualified during Semi-State Contest will perform.

The band qualified as a State finalist during the ISSMA Semi-State Contest at Ben Davis High School. Other high schools that qualified for State include: Avon, Ben Davis, Carmel, Lawrence Central, Franklin Central, Lake Central, Center Grove, Castle and Penn. The band took first place, outranking rival school, Avon High School, which finished in second.

"Semi-State was beyond amazing," Stephanie Verhoff (11) said. "Everyone did so well and performed to the best of their abilities. It was by far the best performance I have ever been involved in with the Homestead Spartan Alliance Band."

The band has placed first in all competitions this year with the exception of regional competition, where they placed second. The band has experienced similar

▸▸ SEE 'BAND,' PAGE 3

Risqué Halloween costumes force children to grow up too fast

Annual Halloween traditions overshadowed by controversial teen, child costumes

SHANNON NYCUM
Writer

Students celebrate Halloween with the three main C's: candy, creepy movies and costumes. Enjoying Kit-Kats and Reese's, trick-or-treating and staying up late only to endure a sleepless night after watching Friday the 13th are all beloved traditions of Halloween. These customs never grow old, but costumes have been changing in negative ways and are defying the real spirit of Halloween by dressing up as sickening "sexy" demons and police women.

Oftentimes on the radio, advertisements for flirty, glamorous costumes will air. It's sad that the media is trying to make Halloween a time where one is supposed to dress in attractive ways. Costumes revealing too much cleavage are becoming more and more popular, and most likely these intentions are for attracting others, not for the enjoyment of dressing up as something spooky or silly. The media is to blame for most of this by expanding their range of customers to teenagers and even children.

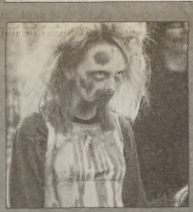
> "Though people have a right to dress as they wish, others will still judge them."
>
> **SHANNON NYCUM**

The majority of our generation is trying to be older too quickly. I recall the time when I was little, and it was popular to say the words "hang out" and wear make up like teenagers. I, along with several others, wanted to grow up already. It is rather shocking when teens wear such mature costumes during the upcoming holiday. Though people have a right to dress as they wish, others will still judge them.

Recently, a new costume called "Anna Rexia" has been on and off the markets. "Anna Rexia" is a costume that was originally made to make fun of anorexia. The costume is a small black dress with the imprint of a skeleton and a measuring tape belt, but its attempts at humor are ill-placed. It seems to be that nowadays, Halloween is not about being spooky and having a good time, but about being sexy. This and costumes like "Anna Rexia" entirely miss the point of Halloween.

FRIGHT NIGHT 2011

Zombie Walk and other Fright Night events provide eerie enjoyment



Fright Night was held downtown over the past weekend. This night had many different events like a zombie walk that brought in a band and many participants this year.

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Grim, grinning ghosts socialized in the happy haunts that emerged in downtown Fort Wayne at the Fright Night Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 22.

Fright Night is an annual event that allows Fort Wayne residents to release their inner spook in a horde of fun and frightening activities, including a tour of the ghost-infested tunnels beneath the Embassy Theatre, a tour of the jail at the History Center, and a late night screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Botanical Conservatory. These eerie events were but a few activities in which students engaged last weekend.

The ghost tours at the Embassy Theater were a huge hit for students seeking to encounter specters lurking underneath the beloved Fort Wayne landmark.

"Even though the [ghost] tours were short, they were very interesting. I never knew Fort Wayne had so many haunted stories to it," Brad Sir Louis (11) said.

While journeying through the tunnels, Kira Clouse (11) said she experienced a horror movie first hand.

"The tunnels were really cool because there was an actual paranormal theme there," Clouse said. "It was kind of creepy walking around there."

But despite spooky alternatives, the highlight of Fright Night is undoubtedly the Zombie Walk, a gathering where Fort Wayne's decaying undead slink along Main Street in a parade of flesh and blood.

"My grandpa found out about the Zombie Walk in the newspaper, and I decided it was something I wanted to do, because, who doesn't love zombies?" Chloe Smith-Guitard (11), veteran Zombie-Walker, said.

Smith-Guitard has participated in this march of the living dead for the past three years and said the Zombie Walk gets her into the Halloween spirit.

"I love the Zombie Walk because you get to see people of all ages dressing up in very creative costumes," Smith-Guitard said. "This year there was even a family of murderous clowns."

While Allie Ciraza (10) was merely an observer, she too was able to enjoy watching the shrouded walkers emerge from their tombs for this community event.

"There are people who go all-out putting flesh on their face. It looks like they've come fresh out of the grave," Ciraza said.

Zombie Walkers exert all of their creativity to ensure the quality of their costumes and make the event as close as possible to an actual zombie apocalypse.

"There was a little kid there who looked like he had real sticks going through him with blood [SHE'S MEDIA TOO] ME.

However, while abundant, zombie guises are not compulsory. Though costumes are encouraged, there is no set dress code, so people with all sorts of Halloween outfits are welcome.

"There are people there with all different costumes," Smith-Guitard said. "Go as a zombie, a werewolf or an undead Spongebob. No one is going to care."

Smith-Guitard, who went as a demented rag doll, said she enjoys watching and meeting all the people lurking in the dark.

"Last year I went as a zombie, and I held a sign that said 'All we want to do is eat your brains. We're not unreasonable,' which is a line from a Jonathan Coulton song," Smith-Guitard said. "I met a bunch of random guys who knew the song, and we started a spontaneous zombie chorus."

Fright Night has sustained favorites such as the Zombie Walk; however, the event is always expanding and unveiling new and exciting activities.

"My first year they had coffin races. People turned coffins into go carts and raced them downthe street," Smith-Guitard said.

Both Sir Louis and Ciraza said they wish there would be a haunted house in the future.

Unlike the zombies the event celebrates and posthumously honors, due to popular demand, Fright Night will likely live to continue for years to come.

"Fright Night is a great way to experience Fort Wayne, all while getting into the Halloween spirit," Ciraza said.

This event is a fantastic forum for the freaks, phantoms, and ghouls of our city to gather in a celebration of all that is bizarre. Fort Wayne Fright Night is the perfect venue to discover the "spooktacular" spirit of Halloween within us all.

▸▸ PRO-LIFE
CONTINUED FROM 1

for debate.

"I think if there's a pro-life club, then a pro-choice club is only fair," John Hester (12) said. "Either side of the argument deserves to be heard, as with any controversy."

Still, other students questioned whether school was an appropriate forum to discuss abortion.

"We're not old enough to be getting abortions, let alone protesting against them," Stephen Libbing (12) said. "They can verbalize [their beliefs] to their friends, but don't annoy people."

Whether using the school as a forum is accepted by the student body or not, there will be people interested in using the club to express their views.

"Personally, I don't like involving myself in the pro-life versus pro-choice argument. I haven't really looked in depth in the subject enough to make a decision," Hester said. "I'm sure there are plenty of students that would be interested though."

The exact nature of the pro-life movement may be misunderstood, something which Decrisio hopes to correct.

"Usually, when people think of the term 'pro-life,' they automatically think abortion, but pro-life entails so much more than that," Decrisio said. "It includes topics like euthanasia, genocide and assisted suicide. I want to change this misconception."

Pro-life club will still need to go though a series of steps to gain full administrative approval. At the first meeting, the number of attendees will be recorded to help determine the level of student interest and decide if the club will gain official recognition.

"The number of students required has varied depending on the type of club," Bay said. "The administration needs to feel that there's enough of an interest in the club so that it's sustainable and worth the school's investment."

If the club receives this recognition, the advisor will receive a stipend from the school. Even if it does not, however, the club could continue on with an unofficial status.

▸▸ OCCUPY
CONTINUED FROM 1

they represent. However, the Fort Wayne movement is a bit less sensible, protesting in odd places around town where its tumult goes unheard by the businesses and greedy aristocrats it protests.

Upon visiting the Occupy Fort Wayne website, one can find a list of countless items that Occupy Fort Wayne protestors are in need of at their current campsite at Headwaters Park, followed by hyped-up rallying cries about how it is each citizen's duty to come protest with them. However, it seems that the site is lacking a list of current goals to achieve by protesting at the same place for weeks on end and begging others for donations.

Occupy Fort Wayne has already degenerated into a movement that hurts rather than helps all of those involved. Ironically, in an attempt to protest their own lowly economic status, they have ended up groveling at the feet of public sympathizers for food with their livelihood completely subject to the will of other philanthropists. If the movement has any real chance of survival, it must take action—real, political action.

When faced with criticism for their lack of a clear goal, leaders of the movement have often claimed that it is because there is such a large spectrum of qualms that must be resolved. But the fact that they can't do everything at once doesn't mean they should do nothing at all. If they want reduced local taxes on the lower class or more welfare programs, they should petition. If they want to be treated fairly and given a respectable wage, then they should confront businesses by unionizing or joining a union. And with such vast support—over 1700 followers on Facebook and 300 on Twitter—the Fort Wayne Movement should have no problem getting the ball rolling once it concentrates its will power into a legitimate effort for change.

▸▸ SMOKE
CONTINUED FROM 1

the smoke which triggered the fire alarm.

"This was a pretty minor issue," Carteaux said.

Although the cause of this incident is not certain, it was most likely the result of a large lightning strike nearby the school during the storm that occurred that morning; however, there is no evidence that the building itself was struck by lightning.

Those responders within the building followed protocol by making sure the building was clear, then going to the location to see what set the system off and eventually making any needed repairs. Although an automatic dialer makes a series of calls to certain staff members during this sort of incident, the third shift custodial staff notified those that the dialer could not get ahold of.

"By the time I got here there were already other people from school that had arrived," Carteaux said. "[This kind of situation] is why we're here. We're on call for that kind of stuff."

In order to insure the safety of students, the exit sign was replaced, and all of the wiring connected to it was checked to make sure it was operating properly.

Staff members involved in determining whether the school was safe for students attend classes after this event were pleased with the actions taken after the alarm was set off.

the SPARTANA
STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2011-2012

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Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

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PHOTOS BY BEN MUESSEL

Four members of the girls' varsity team huddles together after the last minutes of their successful season regional game against Leo pass and their hopes for the post-season end with the loss at this game.

Girls' soccer win NHC, Sectional, finish season with tough loss to Leo

After a long and successful set of games and practices, the girls' varsity soccer team has ended their season as conference and sectional champions. The loss to Leo (2-0) at the regional game made for a disappointing conclusion.

The second to last game against Huntington North (6-0) had a normal flow and was an easy win for the team. On the contrary, their final game against Leo led to a heated disagreement when one of the referees made a controversial call. Towards the end of the game, Emily Bley (11) scored a goal with her head off of a corner kick made by team captain, Ashley Steiner (12), but it was not counted due to the fact that Bley was pushed.

"That goal would have changed the whole game," Lindsay Link (12) said.

Despite the cause oftheir semi-regional loss, the team stayed composed and focused throughout the remainder of the game.

"[That game], in the end showed how close we became as a team and how good we can be just as long as we keep things calm on the field and rely on each other," Steiner said.

During the season, much credit was given to sophomore, Hannah Miller, who helped immensely as a defender. as well as Miller, Morgan Cole (10) assisted in anchoring the defense with two seniors and a junior. This group only allowed nine goals from opposing teams throughout the whole year.

"We went into every game confident and determined to do our best," Link said. "Although we lost a couple, we always kept our heads up."

Overall, this season the team accomplished their main goals of defeating Carroll and winning conference and sectionals. They had hopes of moving deeper into the post season, but the team's recent loss cut their season short. The success of this year sets high standards for the underclassmen on the team next year.

"[The last games] proved that we have come a long way from the beginning of our season. Unfortunately we will graduate a great group of seniors, but these games made returning players for next year motivated to come back stronger," coach, Katie Metz said.

-Haiden Steingass

Boys' soccer finishes season with NHC title, followed by a hard loss to Carroll

The boys soccer team concluded their season with a loss to Carroll in their regional final. The team had beaten East Noble 1-0 to advance to the final, where they lost to Carroll 1-0 in overtime.

The team had success early in their championship season. They won another NHC Conference championship and secured another sectional title as well. The sectional championship game was one of the most thrilling of the season, as the team triumphed over NHC opponent Columbia City. The game's final score of 10-0 showed the dominance the team carried with them throughout the season.

Their final regular season record of 14-3-0 left them as one of the top seeded teams in the state.

Confidence was high for the team going into the regional tournament. Their victory over East Noble came from a goal that East Noble accidentally scored on themselves.

"Obviously it wasn't how we wanted to win," Frankie Zirille (12) said. Zirille was one of this years team captains and a senior, and a leader to the team on the field.

Unfortunately, the team failed to score on Carroll. A fiercely fought battle in regulation time where neither team scored led to a stalemate and forced overtime. In the first half of overtime, Carroll scored to take a 1-0 lead and clinch a regional championship. "It was extremely disappointing," Alex Moore (12) said. Moore was another one of the team's seniors and was upset with the conclusion of the season.

"We just didn't think things would go the way they did. We knew we were a better team, but things just didn't turn out that way," Moore said.

The seniors on this year's team are optimistic about the future of the team. The huge amount of returning talent and leadership provides a sigh of relief to the seniors, knowing they are leaving the team in good hands.

"I'm excited to follow the guys next year," Moore said. "There's a lot of talent and leadership with them, and they'll be a really fun team to watch play.'

"We didn't just win our sectional, we dominated. 10-0, that's a final score to remember. I know I will," Zirille said. "It was an awesome year and I couldn't be happier to have been a part of it."

-Jacob Cook

THE FINAL SCORE

girls' VARSITY
Top Players:
Goals: Allison Link-4
Assists: Madison Kloster-2
Shots: Kelsey Wendlandt-5
Saves: Megan Romelfanger-12
Minutes: Megan Romelfanger-220
7-4-1

boys' VARSITY
Top Players:
Goals: Jacob Welbaum-11
Assists: Nick Anderson-7
Shots: Jacob Welbaum-23
Saves: Austin Williams-22
Minutes: Chris Anderson-87
17-4-0

▸▸ SCHOLARS CONTINUED FROM 1

must be consistent with their PSAT performance.

"[Being named a National Merit Semi-Finalist] is an honor, and it means I'm doing well and am on the right track," Jacqueline Smith (12) said. "It is also an opportunity to get scholarships, which is very helpful."

Even more helpful, perhaps, than the National Merit Scholarship itself is the potential to earn other scholarships.

"[National Merit acknowledgement] is only one way to get money for college, and it isn't 'big bucks'," counselor Amy Hamilton said. "The recognition is nice, and that is what can get you noticed by universities and colleges who want to recruit National Merit Scholar recipients. That is where you can get scholarship money."

In the past, three Homestead National Merit Finalists were recruited by the University of Alabama and given full rides to attend.

Although the PSAT is only one test given on one day, outstanding performance can lead to recognition and lucrative scholarship opportunities. All of these students will likely excel at both the collegiate and professional levels.

"I knew all of the other scholars from elementary school, and they are very competitive academically." Smith said. "I think [being recognized] means these students have the wherewithal to become National Merit Semi-Finalists and that they display a lot of potential."

▸▸ HOCKEY CONTINUED FROM 1

nent last year, has fallen to 1-2 early in the season due to the loss of several seniors. The team is directly followed by Leo (2-1) and Snider (2-1), who the team delivered both of their losses to.

This week, the team is taking on Northrop in a League game at the CanLan Ice Arena, a brand new facility that was first used by the team last year. Upcoming crossover games, where the team plays teams outside of Fort Wayne's league, include St. Joe, Marion, and Chatard.

As of now, the teams outlook on the rest of the regular season is positive. "We're still working on team chemistry," Haffner said. "It's the most important thing for any hockey team to have, regardless of talent." While Haffner believes that the team is playing well right now, the absence of key players is holding them back from their true potential as a dominant force in the state.

Abnormal holiday treats result in shock

Reflections on strangest trick-or-treating handouts, experiences

BY WILLIAM NGO
Writer

Although trick-or-treaters are socially compelled to ask "Trick or treat" on Halloween night, they usually expect a form of candy in their open bags. It may not seem like a question, but some unlucky trick-or-treaters discovered that it truly is.

Charlie Dewey (10) said he had to find this out the hard way when the counter was a trick. Dewey approached the door of a home and anticipated a sweet, as he was accustomed to from previous houses and years. When he rang the doorbell, an empty-handed man opened the door to greet him and reached a hand inside Dewey's bag, taking the candy and darting off. The man ran around the yard, leaving Dewey stumped as to what he should do. After a few minutes though, the man was seized, returned the same candy, and went back inside. In most cases, however, the standard Halloween ritual is interrupted when unusual goodies wind up in the assortment found in their bags.

Nick Dellinger (10) was able to experience a classic moment from It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown one Halloween. Instead of a sugary treat, he said that he received a rock – an item that children never hope to receive. However, because of his Halloween spirit, Dellinger was not set back by the rock and continued to enjoy his experience.

While trick-or-treating one year, it was neither a Kit-Kat nor Snickers bar that found its way into Katie Krivacs' (10) hands, but a discount car wash card. She said that she was flustered and surprised to receive the unexpected treat.

> "I would sometimes prefer a trick than some of the treats I get."
>
> **DOMINIQUE SIERRA (10)**
> *Trick-or-Treater*

When Carly Hamilton (10) dressed up and adventured out to gather candy, she received a toothbrush from one household. However, she said that the main objective that night was to get a sugar fix, not to worry over dental hygiene.

"I was mad, because I wanted some candy," Hamilton said.

Chocolate, the prominent type of indulgence, is commonly handed out on Halloween – but perhaps one should remember to be cautious of what they receive as Alex Weaver (10) learned after a particular incident. Instead of chocolate candy, Weaver received chocolate flavored laxatives - a substance that speeds up the digestive system. Not aware of what they were, Weaver devoured the deceptive food and received instant stomach troubles.

"Let's just say, that night ended early," Weaver said.

A vegetable being handed out at Halloween seems ridiculous, but Clayton McClain (10) said he had to undergo such an experience. He was handed a potato, a contrast to the rest of his sugary collection. McClain, uninterested, returned the spud and continued onto the next house.

Even though occasionally unsuspecting individuals receive a trick, some may be better off than others in terms of treats received, such as a small plastic flute.

"I would sometimes prefer a trick than some of the treats I get," Dominique Sierra (10) said.

▸▸ BAND CONTINUED FROM 1

success in previous years, placing third at State last year and placing in the top four at State for the past 21 years.

"[The season] started out rocky because we have a huge freshman class, and it was an experience teaching them all the stuff they need to know," Allison Murray (12), flute player, said. "But as the season has gone on, we have all bonded with each other and proven that we can accomplish anything."

The band's recent success at Semi-State bodes well for the band's performance at State because the winning band at Semi-State tends to win State as well.

"I firmly believe that we have a shot at winning it all this year," Murray said. "After the outcome from last week, we know that we are capable of placing first."

To prepare for State Finals, the band continues practicing, perfecting both the musical and visual aspects of its show throughout the week. The day of the competition the band will have a short practice.

"We are practicing like crazy. This week is going to be really intense," Becca Brown (12), clarinet player, said. "We have a lot of potential, but we have to work hard to accomplish our goals at State."

This year's show, Children of the Sun, lasts eight and a half minutes and is the "peppiest" of the bands shows in recent years. It features original music and music by Pink Floyd as well as large visuals from the color guard.

"The design of the show is very strong; the color guard and visuals are very strong," Assistant Band Director Brad Wadkins said. "The music is very strong."

The show is coordinated around a giant sunburst tarp in the center of the football field.

"Visually, we make a lot of circles and rays with various dance moves," Courtney Winters, mellophone player, (12) said. "And the tarp sun is gorgeous when the real sun hits it. The brilliant yellows and oranges are a good contrast to our blue and black uniforms."

ISSMA State Finals marks the end of the band season, creating mixed emotions amongst band members.

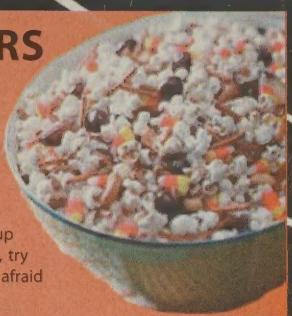
"It's really sad knowing [State] is my last competition," Brown said. "I'm not sure what it will be like once it's over, but my guess is that it will be bittersweet. I don't want it to be the end, but I've put in my fair share of hours for the program, and I'm looking forward to watching my friends pick up the torch and continue the traditions."

fear factor

By Priya Parikh and Lauren Purlee
Feature Editor and Copy Editor

Halloween is commonly known as a holiday for children to dress up in outrageous costumes, collect as much candy as their makeshift pillowcases can hold, and spend the night sorting their gatherings or swapping candy with friends. However, along with the standard festivities that accompany the spooky holiday, the time around Halloween is often spent watching the most recent gory, terrifying films made, or visiting haunted houses and jails. Although many individuals prefer a Halloween spent passing out candy and enjoying creative costumes that children have created, there are always daring people willing to go to extremes to have the most haunting experiences on Halloween. The Eight Levels of Terror of Halloween are activities that people participate in of varying levels of fright. That said, only few have been brave enough to make it to the last few levels. These Eight Levels of Terror are sure to provide a challenge to you and your friends and can be an indicator of how much you can handle on Halloween.

the TRICK-OR-TREATERS & the PARTIERS



Most people tend to mash into at least one of these common demographics at some point in their Halloween season. Though each year they are two of the most heavily populated groups, neither the Trick-or-Treaters nor the Partiers understand the true spirit of Halloween (which is to scare yourself stiff). No, instead of embracing the natural terror of this season, these people are busy separating their Milky Ways from their Snickers. Instead of seeking out excitement on ghost hunts and haunted hikes, these people are hiking up their sailor costumes. I give them props; it takes creativity to make Dora the Explorer look scandalous. Unfortunately, creativity has nothing to do with bravery. Hence, the Partiers, along with the Trick-or-Treaters, are left in a tie for the lamest level of the Tower of Terror. If this is you, chances are you're perfectly content with the sugary sweet Halloween--if you are interested in kicking things up a notch this Halloween season, though, try carving a pumpkin (that is, if you aren't afraid to hold a carving knife).

the DISTURBED

While your effort is appreciated, if you can't handle a scary movie, don't force it. When everyone starts looking for a movie to watch this Halloween season, please, please don't suggest Disturbia. And don't even think about Prom Night or The Village. Just because you can find them under the "Horror" tab at your local Redbox does not make these films worthy of a berth in anyone's Halloween scary movie marathon. (My mom watched Disturbia. Trust me, it doesn't count.) It's totally understandable if you can't handle the latest slasher film, but don't deny your friends the fun of a few good old sleepless nights. This year, let them have their thrills--it's totally acceptable to excuse yourself to the next room until it's over. It's equally acceptable to bring your own form up alternative entertainment to keep yourself occupied. Not homework, because that will just get you teased...if you find yourself in this situation, your best bet is probably spending the time brushing up on your Catchphrase technique.

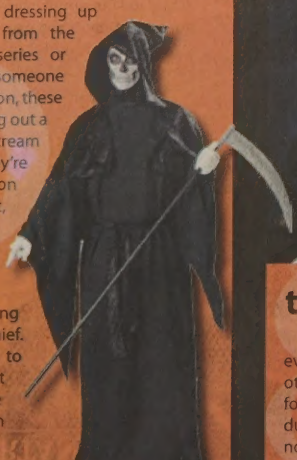
the COUCH HOPPERS

These people get their thrills from the scary movies that The Disturbed can't handle. While they do manage to sit in front of the TV screen from the starting credits to the ending credits, these people are no Purple Hearts. They generally watch in packs, because they are too afraid to watch anything alone lest the psycho from the film should somehow make it out of the screen and into their homes. While sometimes Level Four members can feign bravery during scary movies, inside they really aren't to far from the Disturbed. After the movies, they're known to freak out in that moment when the movie is over so the whole room is really dark, and can often be seen making grand leaps over basement couches to sprint up the stairs in these situations to escape the suddenly life-threatening environment of their dark basement. For these people, I suggest installing a Clapper; clap on, clap off, no couch-hopping necessary.

the "JACK THE GRIPPERS"

Poor old Jacks are probably the least spirited celebrators of Halloween. They hate all things scary, yet somehow their higher level friends always manage to drag them into situations they aren't prepared for. That girl in your group that kept grabbing your shoulder all the way through the Haunted Cave last weekend, the one you didn't even know? She didn't mean to be annoying, she's just a Jack. Notorious for latching on to anyone --even strangers-- for "protection" from the dangers of the Haunted Jail/Cave/etc., Jacks just can't help themselves. Try to give them a break, and just be glad you aren't one of them. And for all you Jacks out there, if you really can't avoid these spooky outings, a box of Depends should get you through the season just fine.

the PRANKSTERS



Whether it's dressing up as "ghost face" from the Scream thriller series or creeping up on someone with a gory mask on, these jokesters will bring out a blood curdling scream from anyone. They're often spotted on Halloween night, pulling pranks on younger children or even the elderly with their disturbing jokes and mischief. Try you might to avoid them, but they'll certainly be there to frighten you in the end.

the THRILL SEEKERS

These Halloween lovers are sure to be spotted at the spookiest hot spots of the city. From abandoned lots to disturbing broken down houses, Thrill Seekers are out to find a buzz from the excitement of discovering haunted places. The abandoned milk bottling factory on Bass Road might seem too intimidating for some even during the daylight, but not for Level Seven members. Some of the bravest of the Thrill Seekers might even make their way to the 7 Floors of Hell in Cleveland, Ohio, where people make their way through "Blood Barn" and "Jigsaw's Revenge," just to name a few attractions. Stop by any of these spooky locations, and you'll be sure to run into some of these adventurous individuals.

the MISSING IN ACTION

One can only guess what these people do for Halloween, but none of them ever live to tell the tale. Some are known to go skydiving without parachutes; others are known to have gone ghost hunting or have visited the Mansfield Reformatory in Cleveland, Ohio, where prisoners and guards have previously died due to strange circumstances. Whatever it is they do, although their story may not exactly be known, their daring attributes are sure to be remembered.

the SPARTANA

NEWS The Homestead Alliance Marching Band wins state after fifteen years and celebrates director's twenty-five years of leadership. 1

OPINION The Left and Write addresses the issues presented by the two candidates that ran for mayor in last week's election. 3

LIFE Holiday shopping kicks off at Jefferson Pointe this past weekend at the lighting of the tree and major sales at many stores. 5

SPORTS As the season for winter sports begins soon with competitions, the Spartana addresses each teams goals, top runners. 7

FEATURE Students become first time participants in the local elections through volunteering and voting for representatives. 8

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Wednesday, November 16, 2011 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Band wins state finals in Barber's 25th year directing

By Tori Barnard
News Editor

The Homestead Spartan Alliance Band placed first at ISSMA State Finals for the fifth time in 25 consecutive state final appearances under Director Steve Barber on Saturday, October 29 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

"There was a great feeling of satisfaction [winning state], and I'm so proud of all of the band members, staff and parents," Barber said. Before this year the band had not placed first at State in fifteen years, although they always ranked highly, which makes this State win even more remarkable.

"Winning state our 25th year was like the final chapter of a book, and it was a happy ending," Barber said.

With their show entitled "Children of the Sun," the

SEE 'BAND,' PAGE 2

BRIEFS

STANDARDIZED TEST PRACTICE
Students that took the practice standardized SAT and ACT exams through the parent club need to remember to attend the meeting today. It will take place from 6:00-8:00 PM and will be held in the HHS Community Room. A representative from Princeton review will be present to help with review, exam taking hints, and specific test questions. Students not able to attend will have their scores mailed to the home address provided for the exam.

VISITING COLLEGES
A college will be sending representatives in upcoming days. Students need to register in Student Services and pick up a College Visitation pass at least one day prior to the visit, if they wish to attend. Today an admissions representative from Ohio Northern University will be at school to meet with interested students.

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT
A meeting to discuss the different varieties of financial aid available to students will be held tomorrow night at 6:30 in the Community Room. The meeting will cover topics including student loans, grants, and scholarships. Students should tell their parents to plan to attend the meeting to ensure that all students receive the required information. All students are welcome to come to the event, along with their parents, and college-bound students are highly encouraged to attend.

Tennis courts renamed after former coach Jim Clark

By Laura Zeng
Copy Editor

The tennis court complex was recently named after former tennis coach Jim Clark in honor of his years of work with the boys' varsity tennis team.

The proposal to rename the tennis courts the Jimmy Clark Tennis Complex passed unanimously by the school board on October 18. Clark was then honored on October 29 when a crowd celebrated the newly-named complex.

The proposal to name the tennis court complex after Clark had been underway for some time, supported by Clark's friends, peers and players, both previous and current. The idea went to Superintendent Steve Yager who then presented it to the school board.

"My personal rationale [for my vote] was that it was the right thing to do, and Coach Clark's record really stands for itself," President of the School Board John Bloom said.

After retiring in 2009, Jim Clark had coached the varsity boys' tennis team for 31 seasons with a total record of 596-86. Clark coached teams that achieved 31 Sectional championships, 28 Regional championships, 18 Semi-State championships and nine State runner ups. Clark also coached six athletes who would go on to receive the Indiana High School Athletic Association's Mental Attitude Award.

Above all, Clark knew how to treat his players.

"Coach Clark was an exceptional coach because he knew how to

SEE 'CLARK,' PAGE 2

THE DECISION

"My personal rationale [for my vote] was that it was the right thing to do, and Coach Clark's record really stands for itself."

JOHN BLOOM
School Board President

Fall play provides comic relief to war theme

By Sydney Brummett
Writer

This year's fall play, *Don't Drink the Water* by Woody Allen, was performed by members of the student body last week

The showings were at 7 pm in the auditorium, and audience members were charged $5 for admission.

The plot consists of a family going on vacation in Europe and accidentally taking pictures in a restricted area. The local police chase them into the U.S. Embassy, where they meet a host of interesting characters. The rest of the play is about the family living there and their many attempts to get out of the Embassy back to their home in Newark, New Jersey.

"This show has humor that will fit any type of person," drama teacher and play director Victoria Malooley said. "It is a great play for families, but it also has a lot of great humor for high school-age students as well."

Students and adults alike appreciated the humor.

"Plus, it's cheaper than a movie and still a great way to spend an evening," Malooley said. "An evening spent laughing is never an evening wasted."

Cast members have spent long hours at rehearsal memorizing lines, learning where to be on the stage and developing their character. They have also bonded as a cast.

"The best part about being in the play is making friends," Hannah Anelle (10), who plays one of the sultan's wives, said. "I loved getting to know everyone; they are all pretty killer."

Over the course of rehearsals, the cast, director and stage crew put in over 2,000 hours of work, collectively.

Individually, each cast member spends about 100 hours working on developing his or her character, effort that does not go unnoticed by audience members.

"The best part about seeing the plays is getting to see the result of so many students' hard work," Laura Laudeman (10) said. "They deserve to be recognized."

Through their hard work and concentration, the students build relationships, self-confidence and pride in their accomplishments.

"Watching the students grow as people is my favorite part of the

SEE 'PLAY,' PAGE 2

PHOTO BY RAN MIRESTEIL

Four of the major cast members during the opening performance Thursday night.

Largest National Honor Society class inducted

By Megan Cater
Writer

The National Honor Society (NHS) Recognition and Induction Ceremony was held on Thursday, November 3 at 7 pm in the auditorium.

NHS is an organization that recognizes students with excellent grades and high achievements. To be a member of NHS, students must have a grade point average of at least 10.0, which is an A- average. Members must also participate in community service throughout the year to retain membership.

"National Honor Society members are more than a GPA," English teacher and NHS advisor Scott Hill said.

The Induction Ceremony introduces new junior and senior members and

SEE 'NHS,' PAGE 2

106
juniors were inducted this year, making the largest NHS class ever at Homestead

Club encourages student tolerance for differences

By Dani Castonzo
Life Co-Editor

Love, Don't Hate, a new club aimed at promoting student diversity, has been approved by the student government and is undergoing consideration by the administration.

If approved, this organization has the potential to cause controversy between students.

The club, originally solely a Gay Straight Alliance, has expanded to include diverse human interest topics that may change annually.

"Contrary to popular belief, we did not change it due to pressure from the administration; we changed it so the club could be more inclusive to different groups, such as racial and different socio-economic groups," board member Samara Reiter (12) said. "We want to make sure the club lasts beyond the time we're at Homestead, and with a broader focus we hope to achieve that goal."

"To raise awareness of LGBT issues and put an end to homophobia within Homestead," is the main objective for this year, according to the club's informational packet.

Members of the club will attend bi-weekly meetings and participate in nation-wide events such as the National Day of Silence, Think Before You Speak Project and No Hate Day.

Colton Shaffer (11) founded the club and was inspired by a friend who struggled to come out

SEE 'CLUB,' PAGE 2

'We the People' team wins first competition, moves on to state

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Keith Potter's We the People Class competed in and won the District competition on November 4.

We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution is an annual competition sponsored by the Center for Civic Education in Washington, D.C. It tests high school students over their knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Students are broken into six groups, which correspond to a chapter in the textbook. Prior to the competition, they are given three essay questions and are told to prepare a four minute response for each question. At the competition, judges give them one of those questions and assess their prepared responses. Following the speeches, the team members have to answer six minutes of follow up questions. Judges add up scores from the six sections and determine a winner.

"I heard about [We the People] from another teacher at Elmhurst who said we should get involved," Potter, who started the team fifteen years ago, said. "I was invited to judge the District competition one year and decided that was something we should do."

Potter got the program approved by the administration and now teaches a class of 25 juniors and seniors.

"The size varies," Potter said. "Last year was sixteen; one year we had three classes and over 50 kids."

We the People is the first semester of AP Government and generally attracts students with an interest in local and national politics.

> "Students get research and presentations skills and learn what it means to be a citizen of the United States."
>
> **KEITH POTTER**
> *We The People Teacher*

"I took the class because I really like government, and I thought it would be interesting to experience government in an active way," Ally Furnas (11) said.

Furnas focused on unit two, about the main differences between the Anti-Federalists and Federalists and issues that arouse during the Philadelphia Convention, with teammates Darby Cook (11), Sarah Poorman (11) and Matt Faley (11).

"I wanted to join We the People after a great experience with the competition in elementary school," Faley said.

The experience of participating in We the People instills a new appreciation of American government in students.

"I've gained an understanding of how our government operates and the role that each individual plays in our political system," Furnas said.

The program teaches lessons beyond just factual knowledge.

"Students get research and presentations skills and learn what it means to be a citizen of the United States," Potter said.

The team won the District championship for the fifteenth consecutive year. Now their efforts are focused toward the State competition.

"When we won, I felt very accomplished because we all put in a lot of time. It was nice to achieve something for all of our hard work," Furnas said.

Potter said he believes the team will do well in this year's State competition.

"This year is a really solid team and a strong group," Potter said.

With the district competition easily under their belt, the team is confident in their abilities for the next competition.

"Placing in the top five or winning a unit award are everybody's main goals," Furnas said. "We just really want to make it in finals at State."

THE PROGRAM

THE CLASS
The unique set-up of this class allows students to take their textbook learning and put it to the test through rounds of presentations and research of a specific section of the United States Constitution.

THE HEARINGS
The competitions begin on the district level with other schools in the community. From there the team can move to state and national events held in large cities and provide explorations to museums and historic sites.

THE RESULTS
Research of the students involved in the program show 36% higher test scores than the average college student. The knowledge of citizenship and democracy help students gain an advantage for futures in politics.

PHOTO FROM WWW.CIVICED.ORG

▸▸ NHS
CONTINUED FROM 1

recognizes the senior members.

"It's always special because it is a chance for parents and students to pause, and it's a ritual that helps emphasize how students got where they are through work and dedication," Hill said.

Principal Rick Smith and Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay welcomed guests and made an introduction about NHS. Hill presented the members of the junior and senior class.

The senior class members were recognized first and received member cards. During the procession of the students of the senior class, a slideshow that included a current and baby picture of each member was playing. While most students sent these in, some did not and, slideshow creators Lauren Purlee and Dana Hart decided to put a picture of a famous person in the place of the missing picture. These pictures were crowd-pleasers.

"I really enjoyed the way the creators of the slideshow, Dana Hart and Lauren Purlee, chose to deal with pictures not being sent in by using funny celebrity pictures and baby pictures instead," Samara Reiter (12), member of the NHS executive board, said.

After the senior members were recognized, Hill introduced seven new senior inductees. Following this, the junior class was inducted into NHS. This year's inducted junior class was the largest ever, with 106 students.

"I am definitely curious to find out what the group is fully about and see what benefits I get from being part of the group," inductee Brian Hanford (11) said. "I know that colleges like to see a students' involvement in extracurricular groups and activities, and NHS will really help me stand out from the average student when applying to colleges."

When the recognition part of the ceremony was over, there was a candle lighting ceremony. Members of the executive board introduced the five values that are the basis of NHS. The white, green, gold, red and purple candles represent truth and knowledge, character, scholarship, service and leadership, respectively.

Finally, the new members had to recite the NHS Oath. This ritual concluded the Induction Ceremony.

Students and parents made their way to the Cafeteria Commons for cookies and cake. New members were asked to sign in to the NHS book after the ceremony.

New and old members are excited for the upcoming year. NHS has many different events planned for this year.

"I can't wait to get our regular programs started up, such as our free tutoring services and faculty breakfasts," Reiter said. "I'm also really excited for the Coffee House in the spring because that's always such a fun event."

NHS Advisor Scott Hill jokes with the audience during the ceremony on Tuesday.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

▸▸ BAND
CONTINUED FROM 1

band again won over their rival school Avon, who placed second to Homestead at Semi-State and State. Many members believe that this year's band took their performance to a higher level.

"What made us different this year was the emotion of the performance," clarinet player Becca Brown (12) said. "Our technique was great, but the effect of our show is what put us ahead."

Although they placed first at Semi-State, many band members were in shock after hearing they had won the State competition as well.

"I had to look over at the other drum majors who were smiling to reassure I heard correctly," drum major Ashlee Nichter (12) said. "My smile did not wear off for hours."

Although they found success in competitions, the road to a state title was not without challenges. Many members initially had difficulty with using props in the show, according to Nichter. Furthermore, a particularly large freshman class presented its own challenges.

"It was great to have all the interest in this organization, but at the same time it meant we had to pay more attention to introducing everything that some of us have already been doing for one to three years," saxophone player Matt Sagstetter (12) said.

The band was able to overcome these challenges in order to win State.

This year marks not only the 25th consecutive year that the band has attended State Finals but Barber's 25th year as band director.

On Sunday following, when band members and parents would typically meet for an annual potluck dinner to celebrate the achievements of the season and competing at state, alumni from the past 25 years, parents and current members all met at the stadium to celebrate their win at State and to honor Mr. Barber for his 25 years of dedication and hard work in the program. Alumni traveled from all over the country to honor Barber.

"The tradition of excellence that Mr. Barber has instilled at this school is something rare and invaluable," Garret Govin ('10) said. "For 25 years he has put more work into shaping this program than we can imagine."

Alumni also expressed their appreciation for being involved in the band program.

"I count myself blessed to have participated in four of the 25 years of tradition here at Homestead," Govin said. "The feeling of belonging to 'Spartan Alliance Nation,' as Director Brad Wadkins called it, cannot be fully described."

During this event arranged by band parents, current band members and staff formed a circle around the alumni on the football field and surprised Barber and Assistant Band Director Brad Wadkins, who has directed the band for 19 years.

"Seeing the alumni really had meaning to Mr. Wadkins and myself because these were the people who built the program," Barber said. "It was a pretty humbling experience and really meant a lot to me."

Current band members also appreciated the need for recognition of Barber and his accomplishments.

"He means so much to so many people but doesn't receive the credit he deserves for leading our program," Brown said.

Following the surprise of many seeing many former students and staff, the celebration continued inside with a commemorative slide show in the auditorium and several presentations, followed by the traditional celebratory State dinner in the cafeteria.

All 241 band members received recognition from the student body in a pep session celebrating their accomplishments last Tuesday. Students then heard of Mayor Tom Henry's proclamation that declared November 1, 2011 as "Homestead Spartan Alliance Marching Band Day."

"The students deserve every accolade that they receive," Barber said. "This was a tremendous honor that was well deserved."

The band achieved great success this season, and members agree that all of their hard work was worth it.

"I've made friendships and learned lessons that will last a lifetime because of the hours I've spent practicing and competing," Brown said. "Everything I did during band season for all four years essentially revolved around band, and though I complained, I wouldn't have had it any other way."

▸▸ PLAY
CONTINUED FROM 1

show," Malooley said. "Students may start out just to have a good time or be noticed, but as they develop their characters, they begin to take themselves and their craft more seriously."

No only can the directors and cast members see the hard work that is put into the play, but the people who attend the play also observe the teamwork they build.

"Drama Department productions are a great example of what can come out of discipline and collaboration," Laudeman said.

Although being involved in the play teaches some students life lessons, some students take away more lessons from the play itself.

"[The play] has taught me to not take pictures of suspicious objects and get chased into an Embassy," Anelle said. "That would be a bad day."

▸▸ CLUB
CONTINUED FROM 1

because of the social ostracism that he believed he would face. Shaffer and Emily Featherston (12) will be the co-presidents if the club gains administration approval.

"Colton wanted to start this club to decrease the amount of hatred towards LGBT students and people in general," Featherston said. "Statistics show that schools with a club like Love, Don't Hate decrease suicide rates and greatly improve the students' educational experience."

The club sponsor, French teacher Meg Underwood, supports the main ideas of the club.

"I'm so happy to encourage tolerance and education of diversity among students," Underwood said. "No one likes to discipline students, so it's inspiring to sponsor positivity."

> "I'm so happy to encourage tolerance and education of diversity among students."
>
> **MEG UNDERWOOD**
> *Club Sponsor*

If the club is approved, student reactions will no doubt vary to the controversial issues Love, Don't Hate will address.

"I'm hoping that students will look past the stereotypes and realize that bullying on any basis is wrong," Featherston said. "Why should it not extend to LGBT students? They're people too, guys,"

Some students expressed concern that these sensitive issues have no place in a school environment. Others said that there is no need for a club like Love, Don't Hate because bullying is not a problem.

"I'm not homophobic or anything, but I don't think issues like this should be discussed in school," Rachel Justice (9) said. "Some people take it very personally."

An informal meeting was held at the end of October to gauge student interest in the club. Approximately 30 students attended, and the constitution and goals for the year were discussed. A student board was also established.

"It's a great opportunity to promote love in our community," Rachel Klein (11), club attendee, said. "I think this year will be a success, and I hope that more people will join and be inspired."

Despite some negative student reaction, the board members and club attendees said that they remain loyal to Love, Don't Hate and the issues it addresses.

"It doesn't matter if this change is in a day, month or a year. If having a supportive community at Homestead stops a single individual, no matter their sexual orientation, race, gender orientation, age or academic standing from self-harming, committing suicide, et cetera, then my personal goal is fulfilled," Featherston said. "The extreme amounts of bullying and degradation of other students has to end."

▸▸ CLARK
CONTINUED FROM 1

optimize what he had," former varsity tennis player Alex Shin ('11) said. "He took chances most coaches wouldn't take. He knew what he wanted and pushed until he got it."

Clark has also won numerous awards for his coaching. He was recognized as the National Federation of Interscholastic Coaches Association's Coach of the Year in 1997 and was also recognized as District and Conference Coach of the Year on mulitple counts.

"[Clark had] dedication to the sport and genuine care and concern for the student athlete on and off the court," Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Joe Updegrove said. "He impacted many lives, and a lot of [former tennis players] are very glad this happened."

Clark is now among three other people who have had Southwest Allen County sports facilities named after them. In addition to the Jimmy Clark Tennis Complex, there is also the Pat Teagarden Field, the Terry Hippensteel Field and the Dave Walters Stadium.

"I feel like [Clark] deserves to have the courts named after him," Shin said. "He has worked his rear end off every single year as the Spartans' head coach and has achieved some of the greatest accomplishments."

▸▸596
matches were won under Clark's coaching

the SPARTANA
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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

Raucous Pep Session, 3

Students share differing viewpoints on general student body response at the ceremony held in honor of the marching band.

PHOTO FROM WWW.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

LEFT AND WRITE:

Tom Henry's victory in local election well-deserved, positive for Fort Wayne's future

By Clair Pranger
Opinion Co-Editor

As the city rides the waves of propaganda from the recent mayoral election, often the best candidate for the job can become lost in the smear campaigning of two close candidates. Tom Henry and Paula Hughes are no exceptions to this generality, but to the detached eye of the casual observer, Tom Henry is clearly more qualified for the office. This observation was one shared by a majority of the citizens of Fort Wayne, according to Tuesday's results.

Tom Henry's record speaks for itself, particularly his plans for the future promise debt management as well as vital job creation and innovative city service plans. While Hughes is grumbling about the debt being too high, Henry has already instated a plan to have 40 percent of Fort Wayne's debt cut by 2015. He has also encouraged recycling by introducing no-sort containers, which boosted participation from 34 percent to 68 percent, and is projected to save the city one million dollars. Mayor Henry is also in a bid to boost employment by supporting small businesses with grants and a revitalization of downtown.

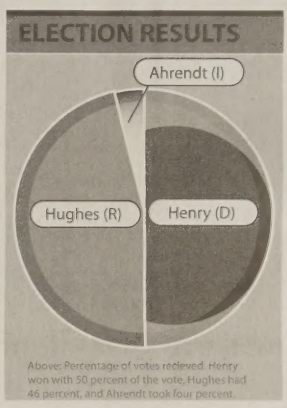
Paula Hughes, on the other hand, focuses on non-existent fiscal problems, like "high unemployment" and "rising debt," while Fort Wayne is actually the best place to find a job in the nation. The city is also on track to pay down roughly 40 percent of its debt by the time Tom Henry leaves office. She contents herself by promising only what the dominantly conservative voting populace wants to hear.

Hughes's shaky platform holds little water in regard to the benefit the city's residents stand to gain from it, and her lack of a well-rounded plan also leaves much to be desired.

Though every new politician promises to be an instrument of change, it is never specified whether the change will benefit those affected by the election and the winning candidate's subsequent actions. Politics can very easily turn a respectable, capable person into a crowd-pleaser bent only on accumulating votes, and it takes an intelligent voter to spot the difference. Hughes's constant berating of Henry for his lack of fiscal conservation is one such difference.

Only one key issue on which to campaign does not necessarily a good candidate make.

Fort Wayne made the right choice. Tom Henry has not only turned the city into the best place to find a job in America, but he also cut debt and came in under budget while providing the citizens of Fort Wayne with the quality services on which they depend.



Above: Percentage of votes recieved. Henry won with 50 percent of the vote, Hughes had 46 percent, and Ahrendt took four percent.

Tom Henry's victory encourages local Democrats, disappoints Republicans

Hughes' loss unfortunately deprives city of potential debt reduction plans

By Sarah Bade
Writer

Ever since Tom Henry was elected mayor, the debt in Fort Wayne has risen a half-billion dollars, according to some sources. If Paula Hughes had been elected, she would have, to the best of her ability, eradicated debt, cut uneconomical spending and balanced the budget. Hughes even states, "It's time for us to take power from the government and put it back in your hands, where it belongs."

Contributing to the debt, Henry is the highest paid mayor in Indiana, and he is even paid more than the governor, meaning that he is taking valuable tax dollars for himself, instead of spending it for the people.

Paula Hughes, on the other hand, has succeeded in taking Allen County to a 22 million dollar surplus from an 8 million dollar debt. Also, Hughes has taken and transformed the county budgets to create "rainy-day" fund. This would allow Allen County to make plans on a "cash-basis."

During the debate over Fort Wayne Rivers, Henry stated that he wanted land to be cleared for a casino, an industry that takes valuable money from citizens but gives little in return. However, Hughes decided that she would want the land in flood-zones cleared for business, so that she can sign long-term leases with entrepreneurs. This plan would not only provide an income for the business owners, but the business would allow money to be sent back into the economy and potentially stimulate the economy. Also, the business would create job positions, which would also help more Hoosier families.

Hughes is supported by the county council, which she leads and was elected twice to be president of by her peers. She showed that she cares about the taxpayers when she signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge. This pledge is an oath that a person can take a stand that they will not raise taxes. The taxpayers already have to pay a large amount on taxes that families cannot afford. This pledge would prevent the taxpayer from having to pay more of the money that could have potentially gone back into the economy.

As stated on her official website, Hughes has a few political goals: "cut wasteful spending, reduce the debt and get Fort Wayne working again." Fort Wayne needs a mayor who will protect the people, not just his or her own self. That mayor, however, will not be Paula Hughes, as she unfortunately lost on Tuesday to incumbent Mayor Tom Henry. Fort Wayne missed out on a great candidate.

Obnoxious crowd at pep session draws student, staff criticism

Students react to administrative response to uncontrolled applause during ceremony for band

By Priscilla Lin
Guest Writer

I have no doubt that most of the letters you'll read will begin with the words, "I was appalled" or "the disrespect displayed at the pep rally was horrifying." I, however, am still a little bit confused as to why I'm still receiving lectures on behavior in every single class from every single teacher. I was at the pep rally. I observed the exact same things that everyone else did.

But unlike the majority of the staff here, I didn't see a whole lot of a problem with what went on at the pep session. Sure, there was some disrespect coming from a handful of the students. But honestly, what did they expect? The fact is that band will never be held to the same level of respect as other sports. It's sad, but it's the truth. Currently, the student body has it programmed in their heads that the band is in some way inferior.

Although I disagree, and find some of the behavior that occurred the other day a little bit rude, I still think this whole thing has been blown out of proportion. I feel bad for the band, I really do. What they accomplished on Saturday is absolutely incredible, and as a former member of the band, I'm fully aware of how incredible it really is. The work and dedication that is put out on that field is something that can never really be understood until you're out there, in the sun, in the rain, on weekdays and school nights, giving it your all. The Sunday after state, just like most of Fort Wayne, I was extremely proud of our band and what they accomplished.

Sunday afternoon I got on Facebook and saw that my newsfeed was completely covered with the statuses of excited band members proclaiming that they were "state champions." I assumed this and supportively like every status.

Monday I came to school and heard all of the band kids talking in every single class about how amazing they did. And, once again, I congratulated them all. Once Tuesday rolled around, we were officially on day three of, "Hey, football team, want to see what a state ring looks like?" and "for Halloween, I'm going to dress as a champion, because then I won't need to get a costume."

Now it was just annoying, but I still, like most of the student body, went to the pep session and cheered for the students who knocked out previous national champions and brought our school the most positive attention it's had in a while. I left thinking that we did pretty well at that pep rally, aside from the intentional clapping aimed at Mrs. Bay, of course.

However, once again I go home and get on Facebook, and what do I see? I see more statuses from the marching band asking if it would be too hard "for someone just to care? and "omg that was the most disrespectful thing I've witnessed in my whole life."

Let's face it, probably about 80 percent of students cheered, five percent sat there in stony silence, and 15 percent tried to annoy Mrs. Bay and didn't take any of it seriously. But those students are generally the ones who don't take anything seriously. In fact, they probably don't have a respectful bone in their body.

That's just Homestead. So when I go to class, and constantly am lectured about how bad the students at Homestead are, I'm pretty tired of hearing about it. I'm sorry that the band thinks that the school hates them, and that the faculty continues to look at us in disgust because of the "level of disrespect" that has been witnessed.

But we can't all be perfect. You can't expect everyone to support everything, because you'll never be able to achieve that no matter what school you go to, or what activity it is.

Yes, kids can be jerks. Yes, some of us should have been more respectful to the band. But by day five of the run of the band kids, I'm sick of hearing about it.

I think it's time for everyone at the school to congratulate the band for one last time, and respectfully leave the topic alone for good. We really don't need to hear any more about it.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Above: Band members shake hands with principal Rick Smith during the pep session, which was a ceremony held in honor of the marching band's first place finish at the state championships, despite a questionable reaction from the crowd.

facebook crawl

Every Sunday night Facebook Expert Jacob Cook will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.

Question: "What was your wish at 11:11 on 11/11/11?"

Smokey Dayungin BlackFonzie ▶▶ "For me to make it somewhere in music."

Christian Delzoppo (11) ▶▶ "A pet hamster. Two of them."

Bere Clark (9) ▶▶ "For Homestead XC to avenge their semi-state loss."

Anna Denning (12) ▶▶ "Absolutely nothing."

Seth Coate (11) ▶▶ "I can't think of anything."

Austin Gatman (12) ▶▶ "To have advisory. EVERY. SINGLE. DAY.

Keldon Snyder (11) ▶▶ "To be safe from Mothman, change my dryer sheets, and be safe from Mothman."

Member of band, editorial staff responds to ceremony

The Ed Board
Kevin Kusisto
Surplus Copy Editor
Clarinet in Marching Band

The Nov. 2 pep session meant to honor the marching band reflected poorly on almost everyone involved. The student body displayed a lack of respect through sarcastic applause and mock cheering, showing little appreciation for the band's accomplishments or the directors' hard work.

It was unfortunate, but the situation could have been avoided. The student body was at fault, but poor planning (despite good intentions) on the administration's part contributed as well.

First things first: the band deserves any praise it has (or should have) received. The state champion title is not an easy one to earn, and Indiana is one of the most competitive marching band states in the country.

Directors Steve Barber and Brad Wadkins also deserve respect and recognition; their years of commitment to the students made this year's victory possible. That being said, just because the band deserves recognition does not mean it will receive it from the student body.

It's not that the student body is anti-band; while I've heard some "band sucks" and "band is for nerds" comments in the hallways, the school appears to be no worse about being anti-band than it is about being homophobic, misogynistic or racist. Mostly students just don't care, and that's OK. Any band member who joined the band primarily to gain the respect of his or her peers is probably doing it for the wrong reasons.

Band is a great activity; it teaches valuable life lessons and discipline, and the success of the band members' hard work should be rewarded, but if other students don't recognize these things, they shouldn't be forced to. While I would personally encourage that everyone feel the same sense of pride and recognition that I do, it would be far more than unreasonable for me to expect that.

> "First things first: the band deserves any praise it has (or should have) received. The state champion title is not an easy one to earn, and Indiana is one of the most competitive marching band states in the country."
>
> **KEVIN KUSISTO**

Forced recognition, even if it's well deserved recognition, rarely leads to any true appreciation.

The students didn't respond well to the pep session, but it wasn't entirely unexpected. Combine the small portion of the non-band student body that is actively opposed to the band with the majority that doesn't really care, and it's easy to see how some students' misbehavior could spread to others.

Aggravating the problem was the pep session's lack of entertainment. Without an upcoming game, music from the band or an activity such as tug-of-war or dodgeball to occupy its attention, the student body became bored and restless, further encouraging the delinquency. Had the band performed or the state performance video been shown, the behavior of the crowd probably would have been better.

The administration's position that the pep session should have been devoted solely to recognition of the band is laudable, but unrealistic. Students, especially those with little interest in the band, do not want to sit and applaud for thirty minutes, regardless of how deserved their applause might be.

{The Bottom Line} Poor planning, poor conduct and poor reaction led to an embarrassing display.

PHOTO BY MARY DISTLER

Clubs provide students with opportunities for volunteering

By William Ngo
Writer

Despite the stress of high school, a number of students have proven that they are able to balance both school and giving back to the community. Clubs such as Key Club and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) offer opportunities for teenagers to explore new interests and to gain different experiences.

Key Club, a school-sponsored volunteer group, offers opportunities for students to give back to the community. Each meeting brings new and different events for which students can sign up, ranging from tutoring children to painting nails at nursing homes.

"Before you know it, you'll have 50 hours of volunteering, and seeing you've done that feels great," board member Emily Muha (11) said.

Muha said she particularly enjoys elementary school events because of the animistic kids that attend. Outside of Key Club, she also helps with the yearly Deer Ridge musical.

Another fulfilling club is SADD, a student group that advocates positive actions. The organization plans a number of projects and fundraisers throughout the year, such as Red Ribbon Week and a Nelson's Chicken Sale, to support making wise decisions.

SADD member Chad Childers (10) said that his favorite event is the Dodgeball Tournament. The tournament allows students to compete against one another, and all of profits go to SADD's funds.

"The competition gets extremely intense, and it feels great to know it's all for a good cause," Childers said.

Marching band members also make an effort to help with their expenses by participating in fundraisers. Throughout the year, the band hosts events like the cake roll sale and sells dumplings at the Johnny Appleseed Fair.

All the profits go toward their band season, which includes fees that need to be paid, trips to competitions and music boosters in southwest Allen County.

"My favorite fundraiser is the band car wash because we all work together to get donations and wash over a thousand cars," band member Chris Podlski (11) said.

Lending a Hand is another organization that allows the public to donate money to foundations without simply spending an extra dollar. For instance, with this program, a simple purchase made at Banditos is a donation to the organization.

At certain restaurants, a 15% portion of the bill is allocated to several charities, including Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House, Habitat for Humanity and Community Harvest Food Bank.

As the daughter of Lending a Hand's owner, Hannah Fiechter (11) is one such compassionate soul. She stays involved with Lending a Hand as well as in Key Club.

"Volunteering puts you in the right place," Fiechter said. "You change lives as opposed to changing your Facebook profile picture."

Fiechter said that her favorite event of the year is the Polar Plunge, which takes place every February. At this event, participants are dunked into freezing water to raise money for the Allen County Special Olympics.

There are numerous opportunities available to volunteer and to directly help the community. Through Key Club, SADD and other school-sponsored fundraisers, students take it upon themselves to tend to important causes and to assist others. Volunteering aids not only students but all individuals. It is an opportunity to show appreciation for the whole community.

"It makes you feel satisfied to know you've impacted people," Fiechter said. "It becomes an addiction."

Local performing companies showcase student talent alongside professional actors, well known productions

By Alison Mansfield
Life Co-Editor

A gripping tale of murder, seduction and the corruption of justice in Prohibition-era Chicago, the Broadway classic Chicago's talented cast is sure to captivate audiences at Fort Wayne's Arts United Center from October 29 to November 12. Starring in the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's production of this satirical show-stopper, Evan Hart (11) and Derek Gulley (12), the only two high school students in the cast, take the stage.

"[Chicago has a] great cast of mostly professional actors," Gulley, the actor who plays both a chorus member and Fred Casely, said. "There is definitely a high level of ability.

The setting [working with this older cast] is really fun, but is very mature without all of the high school antics."

Aside from one other high school student and three college students, the cast is comprised of adults ranging from ages 22 to 45.

A universal account of fame, betrayal, and friendship, Chicago chronicles the lives of two criminal females and their experiences in a corrupt women's prison. Roxie Hart and Velma Kelly, two Vaudeville performers convicted of murder, forge a rivalry for both fame and freedom so intense that it captivates the attention of both the young and the old. Taken under the wing of the smooth-talking defense attorney Billy Flynn, Hart and Kelly are swept up in a wave of celebrity sin wrought with duplicity, artifice, and "all that jazz."

"I would recommend everyone come see Chicago. It is dazzling, comical, and two hours of sheer entertainment," Gulley said.

The University of St. Francis's School of Creative Arts is also producing a musical with high school cast members. From November 11 to November 20, the musical Xanadu, a comedy of epic proportions, will be presented at St. Francis University. Though based on a Douglas Carter Beane book, the musical also pokes fun at the melodramatic 1980 film adaptation with Olivia Newton-John and Gene Kelly as lead actors.

"[Xanadu is] kind of like being in a time machine," Brooke O'Mara (11), ensemble member and veteran actress, said. "There are Greek gods and goddesses, mortals from the 1980s, and roller disco. It's the best of many different worlds."

As members of a three-muse ensemble, O'Mara, Clare Ramel (11), and Emma Beauchamp (11) play key roles in this colorful, high-energy musical production.

The musical relays the story of a Greek muse, Clio, who descends from Mt. Olympus to 1980s Venice Beach, California with the mission to inspire a struggling artist. However, when she is disguised as an Australian roller girl named Kira, Clio's quest goes haywire.

She falls in love with a mortal named Sonny, thus risking eternal banishment to the underworld at the hands of her jealous sisters. Xanadu has uproarious comedy, energetic music and skillful dancing- all on roller skates.

"It's really funny [being on roller skates]," Ramel said. "People fall a lot; I almost got a concussion the first time I tried. Every time someone falls it's pretty classic."

Entertainment abounds with sequins and jazz or muses and roller skates. Chicago and Xanadu will not disappoint.

"I would definitely recommend coming to see Xanadu," O'Mara said. "It's a really fun show, and it gives students a different perception of what theater is like outside of Homestead productions."

PERFORMANCES

CIVIC THEATER'S 'A TUNA CHRISTMAS'
A celebration of Christmas in Tuna, Texas told by the local radio personalities as they report on different activities.
December 2-18

THE FORT WAYNE BALLET'S 'THE NUTCRACKET'
The classic story follows Clara as she dreams of a a Nutcracker coming to life. Certain performances offer a chance to meet and get autographs from the cast at a dessert party.
December 2-11

JIM BRICKMAN AT THE EMBASSY THEATRE
The Adult Contemporary musician performs a Christmas themed show. Brickman is the best-selling solo piano artist of our time. His most recent albums set for release in November include Romanza and All Is Calm.
December 12

'Captain Obvious' addresses role, series on video announcements

Captain Obvious (Greg Zimmerman) appears on HHS On Demand every Friday to inform the school of the seemingly obvious rules students violate. Although he has no legitimate super powers, his appearance on the video announcements has caused mixed reactions from students; some negative, some positive. Some of the hard-hitting issues he focuses on include inviting outsiders into the school, PDA, bathroom vandalism, bullying and running in the hallways.

Spartana: How did you get your powers of obviousness?

Captain Obvious: Well, I don't really have any powers. I just have the ability to point out the obvious.

Spartana: What is your alias?

Captain Obvious: I do have a twin brother by the name of Michael (Greg Zimmerman).

Spartana: Who sings your introductory song?

Captain Obvious: Sometimes I have my twin brother sing the intro, and a few ladies, but really anyone with the proper voice and the auto-tone effect.

Spartana: What was your best Captain Obvious moment?

Captain Obvious: My best Captain Obvious moment is when I walk down the halls and I hear people walk by and whisper "Oh my gosh, that's Captain Obvious!" and I feel proud.

Spartana: Now, what is there about you that isn't as obvious?

Captain Obvious: My name describes who I am, so everything about me is obvious!

Spartana: Every hero has his Achilles Heel, his Fatal Flaw or his Kryptonite. What is your weak spot?

Captain Obvious: Usually when kids don't follow the rules. It hurts my feelings.

Spartana: Who is your arch nemesis?

Captain Obvious: I do not have an arch nemesis; but people don't seem to care for me at all. I do not hate or dislike anyone, but everyone seems to hate me.

Spartana: Which school rule are you most passionate about and why?

Captain Obvious: Extreme PDA, because it's disturbing and no one wants to see that!

Spartana: Do you have a sidekick? If not, are you considering one?

Captain Obvious: I don't have a sidekick currently, but I would love to have one. Someone with an amazing name, of course.

Spartana: What are you like underneath the cape?

Captain Obvious: Well, I try to be nice to everyone, even those who aren't nice back to me. Also, my favorite sports are football and soccer, but my main hobby is to fly around town.

Spartana: How much work goes into being Homestead's super hero?

Captain Obvious: The time frame doesn't matter as long as I'm helping students out and bringing justice to the hallowed halls of Homestead High School.

Spartana: Who is your super hero idol? Why?
Captain Obvious: To me, everyone who follows the rules is a true super hero, and it's those good people whom I idolize.

Spartana: What is one thing you think would make our society a better place? Why?

Captain Obvious: I believe if everyone had a conversation with me, they would begin to think more positively about my weekly segment and pay attention about what I say. If they do that, then people might begin to follow the rules more and make our society a better place to live in.

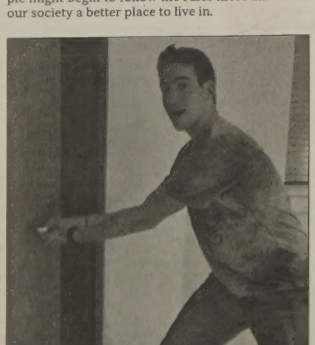


PHOTO BY MARY DISTLER

Captain Obvious works to pull open a door that obviously is made to be pushed.

Thanksgiving memories, traditions contemplated

By Molly Biehl
Writer

Thankfulness means different things to different people. This Thanksgiving, while some people will pass around a turkey platter, others will be starving, not even a crumb in hand. Although it is easy to take simple things in life such as family, friends, food and shelter for granted, this year, several students will celebrate the holiday with a fresh perspective on gratitude.

For Jericha Faulkner (11), after traveling with Emmanuel Community Church to the Dominican Republic on a summer mission trip, "thanksgiving" has a new meaning. The purpose of the trip was to repair and to paint a school, to help doctors distribute medicine and vitamins and to lead a vacation Bible school.

"I had been on another mission trip before, so I had an idea of what we were going to see." Faulkner said. "But I was shocked by the sight of how many stray dogs were running around and by the butcher shops just on the side of the road."

On this mission trip, Faulkner witnessed individuals without clothing who in order to earn a living were attempting desperately to sell cheap wares to visitors. Sadly, such poverty is typical of the area.

Traveling for the first time in a different country, Faulkner said she experienced cultural shock. However, with an estimated 1.6 million people in the United States using transitional housing or emergency shelters, this sort of destitution is closer to home than people think.

"I have such a good life back here in America," said Faulkner. "I don't really find myself being so materialistic after that trip because I found out that I have more here than some people could dream of."

On a similar note, following his third trip to Haiti, social studies teacher Nicholas Byall gained a new attitude of thanksgiving. After the tragic 2010 earthquake that rendered nearly 1.3 million people homeless, Byall traveled to Haiti to help repair homes, to administer vaccines, to comfort children, to work in clinics and to provide educational assistance.

"[Seeing the conditions in Haiti] makes you thankful for what you have, because others don't have those things," Byall said.

> "[Seeing the conditions in Haiti] makes you thankful for what you have, because others don't have those things."
>
> **NICK BYALL**
> *Social Studies Teacher*

Even more precious than material possessions is an appreciation for life. In 2005, following his mother's death, Kendall Gundlach (12) gained a greater appreciation for his own life. After an unsuccessful pancreatic and kidney transplant, Gundlach's mother fell into a coma and was subsequently placed on life support. This year-long process gave Gundlach time to reflect on the fragility and the value of life. "I believe that all of life is an adventure," Gundlach said, "and that whatever happens just happens."

Even in the midst of adversity, there is always something for which one can be thankful. Thanksgiving is a joyous time of celebration with both family and friends, but the true spirit of Thanksgiving lies in the appreciation of life's blessings and in the focus on what is truly important.

Students open up excessively on Facebook pages

This is a time of awkward in-betweens. It's the middle of the second quarter, not quite fall or winter. We're loaded with homework and we're bored, and the good majority of the student population turns to social networking sites.

I'll admit, I've pulled the "first question, Facebook check, a few more questions, Facebook check, halfway through the next question...Facebook" routine. In the grand scheme of things, this probably isn't the best plan for succeeding academically, but I'm more concerned about the quality of our procrastination. With everyone spending more time online, Facebook is sorely lacking in class.

So, for the convenience of my peers, I have compiled a short list of ways to make our Facebook lives a little classier. Some of these are just things I despise for no reason (such as the phrase "epic fail"; who came up with that, anyway?), and others have universally been acknowledged as irritating.

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Co-Editor

One of my personal favorites is the status pattern. Anyone who's ever scrolled down the profile of an incredibly boring person will know what I'm talking about. With a few exceptions, it usually goes a little something like this: "Going to school. Doing homework. Going to bed. Now I'm at school! I have homework. Going to bed."

And repeat, with the addition of an adjective or two every couple of days. Let me just say that when the status box asks, "What's on your mind?" and that is the most interesting thing that pops up, there's a problem. So...tip #1. Not everything in a person's life is status-worthy.

I understand that a profile is supposed to be personal. But personal becomes a tad egotistical when someone uploads 110 pictures of themselves in an album entitled "ME!" or "-insert grade level- year!" Quite frankly, I can't think of anyone that I like enough to willingly view 200 pictures of them posing with their cell phone in a bathroom. Maybe that's just me.

Tip #2: No one is attractive enough to warrant an album entirely dedicated to his/her face. Shake it up a little.

As the cheesy boy band Heart2Heart put it, "Put a heart on your page, heart on your page, let's make it official. Baby you and me – you and me. Facebook official." Although I'm pretty sure that was sung in jest, there are people who take Facebook relationships way too seriously. They like every picture on their partner's profile, write charming statements about love on each others walls and post superfluous amounts of couple photos.

Tip #3: Don't be obnoxious about that heart on your page. PDA is definitely more irritating online than in person.

It's bad enough when people post a "like my status," which has unfortunately been repeated so frequently that it's earned an acronym. Even worse is when a bunch of their friends like it, and they respond to each and every one. C'mon, guys. Read a book, save an orphan, run a marathon. That would probably take less time than thinking of reasons why you love/how you met sixty of your closest friends.

Tip #4: It doesn't matter how cute the question is. "LMS" is an annoying concept.

Another thing that bothers me is when girls (or a really insecure guy) post a picture with the caption "Oh my gosh...I look so ugly" for the sole purpose of being reassured by their friends that they are not.

Tip #5: Self-pity is not attractive, ladies. Why would you post a picture if you look fat in it?

We've all seen this one. Something exciting, like the band winning an award or the first snowfall, occurs and everyone immediately starts typing.

Status A: "Oh my gosh...this exciting thing happened!"

Status B: Professed hatred/sarcastic remark about the exciting thing that happened.

Status C: Complaint about the number of people being excited or hating the exciting thing that happened.

A final tip: ...Don't be one of those people.

Of course, it would be unfortunate if everyone followed the guidelines because half the fun is pointing out these flaws in friends' profiles. But let's try to class it up a little, guys, and make our procrastinated time less wasteful.

DANI'S TIPS

#1- Not everything in a person's life is status-worthy.

#2- No one is attractive enough to warrant an album entirely dedicated to his/her face. Shake it up a little.

#3- Don't be obnoxious about that heart on your page. PDA is definitely more irritating online than in person.

#4- It doesn't matter how cute the question is. "LMS" is an annoying concept.

#5- Self-pity is not attractive, ladies. Why would you post a picture if you look fat in it?

#6- Don't be one of those people.

PHOTOS BY MARY DISTLER

Holiday shopping season kicks off at outdoor mall with tree lighting, sales

BY PRIYA PARIKH
Copy Editor

With the recent change in weather, the holiday season has already begun for many. However, the cold weather is not the only sign that hot chocolate, festive decorations and ornamented trees will soon appear – the holiday shopping season has just begun, signifying the start of holiday festivities.

Jefferson Pointe announced its unofficial start to the holiday shopping season with its annual Magical Day of Giving on Saturday, which hosted an opportunity for guests to enjoy a day of exclusive savings throughout Jefferson Pointe stores, fabulous door prizes, holiday entertainment, Santa's arrival and the tree lighting ceremony of its 50 foot tree. The event also requests Homestead Key Club volunteers each year, and many students turned up and enjoyed the proceedings of the event.

"At the Magical Day of Giving, I handed out wristbands that allowed you to get discounts from various stores," Emily Kaminski (11), Key Club secretary, said. "I really liked volunteering for this event because it dealt directly with the people at the event. Also, I got discounts as well."

"Although those who bought the wristbands received discounts to stores at Jefferson Pointe, the money from the bands went to charity," Katherine Litchen (12) said.

With Jefferson Pointe announcing the beginnings of its holiday shopping season, other stores will be sure to soon follow, ready for the host of shoppers that look forward to this time of year.

"Holiday shopping is always fun because there are lots of discounts, and it's fun to see the decorated stores," Litchin said.

Black Friday is also just around the corner, which means more stores will be putting out discounts around that time. Stores will be opening extra early, some on midnight of Thanksgiving night. However, some shoppers will be lining up long before the stores are open. Thus, it is only natural that students are showing their excitement for Black Friday as well.

"I do go shopping on Black Fridays," Kyle O'Brien (12) said. "It's a tradition for my friends and I to go to Best Buy early Friday morning. It's like Christmas for us."

Best buy is offering large electronics for over 75% off, from HD televisions to gaming systems. Target, Kohls and Macys will also offer over 50% on many storewide items.

"I'm going Black Friday shopping with my mom," Litchin said. "We'll probably go to Bath and Body Works and Target, but we're not hardcore Black Friday shoppers. We wouldn't be camping outside any stores the night before."

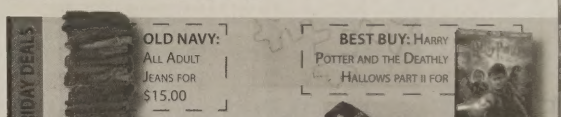
"I love this time of season, so I cannot wait to start shopping," Maddie Hensen (12) said. "I am shopping on Black Friday starting at midnight. I enjoy watching the crazy people running around the stores trying to get good deals. But of course, I'm not one of those crazy people."

Although some are dedicated enough Black Friday shoppers to get up early in the morning to wait outside stores, others are taking a step back from the chaos that typically ensues during that day.

"I am not going Black Friday shopping," Kaminski said. "I hear it gets pretty violent; I'd probably go down in the first few seconds."

Others appreciate the holiday shopping season for reasons other than the shopping itself.

"I don't enjoy the holiday shopping season as much as the atmosphere that comes with it," Andrew Crawford (11) said. "It's so lively, and it just makes you want to be out of the house when the weather calls for it."


BLACK FRIDAY DEALS
OLD NAVY: ALL ADULT JEANS FOR $15.00
BEST BUY: HARRY POTTER AND THE DEATHLY HALLOWS PART II FOR
TARGET: FREE $50 GIFT CARD WITH BEATS BY DR. DRE FOR $179.99
TARGET

PHOTOS, DEALS FROM THEBLACKFRIDAY.COM

Veterans' day provides gratitude to troops

Annual celebration observes continuing, finished war efforts

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Every year on November 11, Americans salute the brave soldiers who fought to defend the red, white and blue. Veterans' Day is a holiday for everyone and is an annual reminder of the dedication of U.S. troops.

The holiday was created in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson, who chose November 11 as the date in honor of the Armistice that ended World War I.

"To us in America, the reflections of [Veterans'] Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations," Wilson said in his presidential proclamation of the holiday.

While everyone observes the efforts of the U.S. military, the holiday hits closer to home for the armed forces.

Tim Decker, psychology teacher, has been a member of the coast guard reserve for 17 years. In 2003, he served one tour in Kuwait protecting military and civilian ships that carried military supplies to a Kuwaiti port.

"I'd always wanted to be a part of the coast guard," Decker said. "It was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Despite being out of college and holding a teaching position for several years, Decker said he was drawn to the coast guard.

"I liked the humanitarian organization of the coast guard," Decker, who also responded to Hurricane Katrina in 2006, said. "We help with search and rescue, maritime law enforcement and defense readiness."

For Andrew Crawford (11), the military is a family tradition. His mother and grandfather were engineers in the air force, and his father was a civilian engineer for the Air Force. Additionally, his brother Lindsay Crawford ('11) is currently enrolled in the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado.

"We have such a background history of the military, and I hope to continue that tradition," Crawford, who also plans to enlist in the Air Force, said.

Crawford intends to enroll in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in college, making him a third-generation military recruit.

> "Veterans' Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices veterans have made to protect the United States."
>
> **TIM DECKER**
> *Coast Guard Reserve Member*

Brett Luithly (12) is another student with military aspirations. He plans to continue the tradition that his father, who served 30 years in the air force, and his brother Kurt Luithly ('10), who attends the United States Air Force Academy, have set.

"My family is so involved because of the example my father has showed with his leadership and unwavering dedication to his country, something he has instilled in my brother and me," Luithly said.

Luithly is in training for and serving in the National Guard 122nd Fighter Wing.

Brian McNeal, business teacher, was a member of the Indiana National Guard for eight years and spent one year on active duty in Operation Desert Storm. He said serving in the military changed his whole outlook on life.

"I don't know how to put into words how it has affected myself and my family other than to say it becomes a part of you and your life. I cannot separate the two," McNeal said. "I look at everything different because of the commitment I made to our country."

"Veterans Day means so much more to me because I have served. I know what kind of sacrifice it takes to have the freedoms we have in our country," McNeal said.

To most, Veterans Day is a reminder of the troops continually working to ensure the everlasting freedom that the United States represents.

"Veterans Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices veterans have made to protect the United States and honor them," Decker said.

To those that have served, Veterans Day is also a reminder of the work that remains unfinished and of the need for a new generation to enlist.

"[Enlisting in the military] is vital to our protection," Crawford said. "We should all do something to help our country and support our troops."

▶▶23,616
troops are currently serving or retired from Allen County, Indiana

SPORTS

end to football season, 6

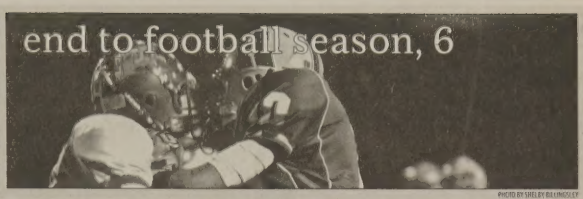


PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Team members take a knee after game against Kokomo. The boys had an undefeated victory until the postseason where their one and only loss occured.

Loss to Kokomo ends football team's postseason run

By Tyler Kotesky
Writer

The football team's undefeated season ended in the Sectional semifinal game against Kokomo. In an offensive fight until the end, the team was defeated 44-41 against a team it had not faced in the regular season.

Despite the disappointing result, the team started the game like any other this season – with a lot of scoring. After the first quarter, it led 21-7 and was beginning a lead. It looked as if the game would be another blowout victory as the team has experienced all year long.

"After the first quarter, we had them where we wanted them," Zach Terrell (12) said.

However, in the second quarter, Kokomo returned a punt back for a touchdown which helped the Wildkats turn the game around. "They had a huge momentum shifter in the punt return in the second quarter which brought them right back in the game," Terrell said.

The Wildkats proved they weren't going to give up as they came within a touchdown at halftime with the Spartans ahead 28-21. It became evident that this game was going to be an offensive showdown.

Despite the difference in records, as Kokomo was 8-2, the teams were very similar in ability. Kokomo had been defeated in its first two games of the season, but returned with an eight game winning streak leading up to the game. The major factor in the game was the Kokomo running backs.

The beginning of the second half showed how impressive the Wildkat running backs really were as they had two rushing touchdowns in a row. A missed extra point put Kokomo up 33-28 in the third quarter.

The offensive scores went back and forth as Terrell threw a touchdown to Isaac Griffith (11) to make it 34-33. After a Wildkat touchdown and a two-point conversion, the Spartan offense fought back with a rushing touchdown to tie the score at 41 in the fourth quarter.

> "It was really tough watching my career, hard work, and effort I had given to the school and program all come to an end in slow motion."
>
> **ZACH TERRELL (12)**
> *Quarterback*

After scoring the touchdown, Terrell was apparently excited and tried to get the team pumped up by lifting his hands in celebration.

"[A Sectional game] is always one of the most exciting times of the season which generates a lot of buzz and emotion!" Terrell said.

Emotion could be seen on the faces of the entire team on Kokomo's ensuing possession. The star running backs of Kokomo ran down the field with ease, entering the red zone with a minute to go in the game.

"It really didn't hit me initially while watching [the last possession]. I was just preparing myself for OT," Terrell said.

In the last minute, Kokomo took the ball down to the two-yard line. With nine seconds left in the game, Kokomo's kicker booted a nineteen yard field goal to put them up 44-41. The away sideline lit up with energy as the team's hopes of a perfect season leading them to state diminished greatly.

Nevertheless, with a few seconds left, the Wildkats kicked off to Griffith, and he began a desperate run up-field. He reached the 40 yard line where he met several Wildkat defenders. As Dan Hinen (12) reached for the football, Griffith was unable to pass it off before falling down along with the team's hopes for an undefeated season.

"It was really tough watching my career, hard work, and effort I had given to the school and program all come to an end in slow motion," Terrell said.

They ended with a record of 10-1 on the season and had previously completed the team's first ever undefeated regular season.

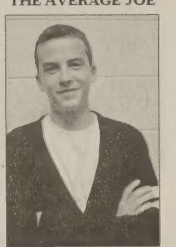
Despite losing the game, Terrell still threw for 370 yards and four touchdowns along with a rushing touchdown. However, Kokomo rushed for 467 yards with two different running backs rushing for over 150 yards each. It was fitting that the team finished with another game with impressive statistics, because all season long, the team has excelled with a lot of offensive successes.

Team's pseudo-star shocked after released early from try-outs

Kolby Rutherford (12) gave the clock a quick glance in his seventh period class; it read 1:50 PM. He tried to regain his focus on the class, but his head involuntarily flickered again toward the clock. He checked the time again, he checked it a third time -- a snickering peer asked him if he was ill, but Rutherford confidently ignored him. With each second that passed his heart beat faster, his hands trembled harder and the perspiration slowly accumulated on his lower back. Rutherford was anxious, for today he would try out for the varsity basketball team.

Rutherford was no rookie when it came to basketball try-outs. He tried out for the middle school basketball team at Woodside, but was cut for reasons that continue to baffle him today. He also tried out for the basketball team his freshman year but was cut again; however, he wasn't discouraged.

The Average Joe



By Joe Laughlin
Sports Editor

"They told me that Michael Jordan got cut from his high school basketball team, so I should be alright. Or was it his college team? I don't know. Wait, who is Michael Jordan?" Rutherford said.

As I left school on Monday, Nov. 7, I passed Rutherford on his way to the try-outs. He looked focused -- so focused that he nearly seemed angry. Rutherford was clearly passionate, and I questioned what had inspired him so.

"I was at Dick's Sporting Goods last night and I saw a sweat band aisle. They're pretty cool. I liked them, and I went to try-outs to fight for a reason to wear them," Rutherford said.

For Rutherford, the try-outs began smoothly. He greatly excelled during the warm-ups, during which he focused on exhibiting his unmatchable flexibility. When he touched his toes, he even noticed the other athletes slowly backing away from him.

Suddenly, the try-outs started to go downhill when he unknowingly stepped on a piece of gum, which he could not remove from his shoe. The slight stick to the floor greatly threw him off, mainly because he feels great affection for those particular shoes.

Nonetheless, Rutherford worked hard. He ran, he jumped, and he dribbled the ball. At times he laughed, at times he cried, at times he furiously barked at fellow players. Rutherford evidently worked so hard that he remembers little detail of what happened.

"I don't remember much of the other drills, but when coach said, 'Go get water,' I was really good at that," Rutherford said.

At the conclusion of the try-out, Rutherford was exhausted. After addressing the group as a whole, the coaches called over a small group of athletes, including Rutherford.

Rutherford's anxiety returned, for he knew that at this moment, the coach would deliver the verdict of whether or not he would make the team.

But then, the coach delivered the poison to him. He was told that he would not be on the team this year, and he was hurt. Though his was devastated, he left the gym with poise.

"I just felt like in the movie, Coach Carter, when the two leading scorers from the previous year walked out of the gym. I was basically the leading scorer from last year, even though I didn't play," Rutherford said.

When he left the gym, however, his emotions took over.

"I slammed my head on the locker a couple times and threw my sweatband. I was pretty upset," Rutherford said.

Looking back, Rutherford still does not understand how he could have been cut. He considers that because he did not get to show the coach's his "threeball," his chances were hurt. Moreover, he claims to have been incessantly sabotaged by his friend Daymon Osborn (12), but the claim still has yet to be verified.

As he recovers from the emotional blow he received from being cut, Rutherford remains optimistic about his future. He plans to continue his intramural basketball dynasty that annually wreaks havoc in the league. Rutherford certainly will not leave the sport he so dearly loves.

"I really want to wear my headband and sweatbands," Rutherford said.

Karley Dobis signs to play golf for Ball State next year

A student signed to play collegiate golf this past week. Karley Dobis (12) committed to play golf for the Ball State Cardinals at a ceremony in the community rooms on Thursday, Nov. 10. CBS News center Channel 15 covered the event where Dobis had to finalize her commitment to the school.

"It has always been my dream to play colliegate golf, and since it is a sport my whole family participates in; it meant a lot to me that my family was there to support me with the decision," Dobis said.

Golf was not the only factor that drove Dobis to select Ball State.

"The academics were also a big part of my decision. I aspire to be a movie screenwriter and the telecommunications program there gave me the best of both worlds," Dobis said.

The crowd at the signing ceremony included representatives from Ball State and Homestead, members of the local and student press and a group of Dobis's friends and families.

The celebration marked the first official signing ceremony held at the school this year.

- Mary Distler

PHOTO BY MARY DISTLER

Karley Dobis (12) and her dad joke as multiple commitment papers are signed and recorded.

Increasing number of athletes catch injury plague

Physical therapist finds proper warm-up crucial for prevention of injuries

By Jacob Cook
Writer

Becoming increasingly common around the school, athletic injuries are plaguing athletes involved in all sports. Varying in severity and location on the body, the injuries are managing to keep athletes out of practices and competitions, and are having an impact on the performances of the team they are a part of.

The football team has suffered more significant injuries than any other squad. The loss of wide receiver Jake Weber (12) to a dislocated shoulder was a significant step in the wrong direction for the team, yet the offense fought through the rest of the season and maintained its dominance with the ball. Grayson Bastin (11) was another of the team's key offensive components, yet was out for two games late in the season due to a dislocated kneecap.

"I ended up needing surgery because the MRI showed I had lost a lot of cartilage," Bastin said. "I had to rehabilitate like crazy to try and get back to playing, and recovery went great. I was back in one week rather than the expected two to three."

The swim teams have also been plagued by injuries in their club seasons and the beginning of their girl's season. Injured swimmers include Jonathan Marble (11), Joel Foreman (12) and Katelyn Gutwein (10).

"My shoulders are 'too loose,' according to my physical therapist," Gutwein said. Primarily swimming butterfly, shoulders and general upper body health are crucial for Gutwein's success.

"It's been really difficult between therapy and not being able to do full practices, but it's taught me a lot of things that I shouldn't do in the future to prevent injuries," Gutwein said.

> "I think kids are starting to get smarter about what they're doing, as well as their coaches. I think we're moving in the right direction."
>
> **DAVE KUHN**
> *Physical Therapist*

With all of these injuries are occurring, athletes are going to several different places to be treated. One of the most popular and successful choices is Indiana Physical Therapy, which is owned and operated by Dave Kuhn. Kuhn has traveled for several years with the Olympic Track and Field team and the Olympic Swimming team doing physical therapy and rehabilitation work with athletes, and is considered one of the best therapists in the world.

"Injuries in high school athletes certainly are not uncommon," Kuhn said. "Kids don't take care of themselves properly in their sports, and it makes it very easy for them to hurt themselves."

Kuhn also believes that there is a single underlying cause that ties most injuries in high school athletes together.

"For most muscle related injuries, it always ties back to lack of a proper warming-up period and post-workout stretching," Kuhn said.

Warm up activities are meant to start muscles in the motions that they are intended to repeat, according to Kuhn.

"With some injuries, it can just be a freak accident, like [Grayson]. I didn't treat him, but that kind of thing wasn't his fault at all," Kuhn said.

His sole advice for all high school athletes is to warm up properly based on physical activity, stretch properly after workouts and to eat healthy foods.

"Believe it or not, eating the right things will make your body happy with you. It will be better supported and fueled to move in the right ways."

As for the future of injuries in high school sports, Kuhn is optimistic.

"I think kids are starting to get smarter about what they're doing, as well as their coaches. I think we're moving in the right direction," Kuhn said.

▸▸2
number of games Grayson Bastin (11) missed due to an injury that required surgical repair.

winter sports PREVIEW

BOYS' SWIMMING

Settling into the new season, the boys' swim team is off to a positive start. Last year's record of five wins and four losses, second place in conference, and eighth place over all at state, has left the team prepared to work hard and beat out the competition of this year.

"I believe that this season will be significantly different from past seasons due to our overall change in work ethic and attitude," Shane Talley (12) said. "I expect that all the guys on the team will end up doing things they never thought they could do, and all we need to really work on is accomplishing our goals as a team."

"I EXPECT THAT ALL THE GUYS ON THE TEAM WILL END UP DOING THINGS THEY NEVER THOUGHT THEY COULD DO."
- SHANE TALLEY (12)

After numerous previous seasons of repeating the same average stance, this year's team is focused on going above and beyond the usual.

"This season we will come back stronger and faster than last season," Cody Craig (11) said. Even though each swimmer competes in different races, the team's objectives are the same. Its main goals this year are to win conference and sectionals and to place well at state.

"The team is focusing on maintaining a positive attitude while working through some of the most intense training we've ever been faced with," Talley said. "We're really trying to work better as an overall team and hold each other accountable to our very high goals."
- Haiden Steingass

WHO TO WATCH
- Jacob Cook (12)- Breaststroke
- Chuck Howard (12)- Breaststroke
- Connor Whitaker (9)- Butterfly
- Robbie Veenstra(11)- Butterfly

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Most would consider a 20-2 record, sectional title and reaching the regional championship tough shoes to fill, but the girls' basketball team is optimistic about the approaching season. The first opponents the ladies face will be the West Noble Knights in a scrimmage Saturday, November 5 at West Noble.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL
Emily Bly (11) goes up for a shot during tryouts.

"The expectations for our team are high this year. If we keep focus and work hard I think we have the ability to go far this year," Emily Bley (11) said.

Last season, the NHC conference was within the ladies' grasp, and they were toying with the other schools like puppets. Throughout the entire season, they hadn't lost a single conference game, which resulted in a conference title as well. Unfortunately, three key leaders in last year's season, Jena Hamrick, Whitney Neal and Kelsey Futter, are no longer apart of the team for the upcoming season.

"It was an honor playing with girls such as them. They brought intensity and skill that will be greatly missed, but I know this year's team will rise to the challenge. People will fill the shoes of those no longer here in order to bring just as much if not more talent to the table than we have had in previous years," Carmen Lowe (12) said.

Pendleton Heights played as the Spartans' kryptonite last season, this season they hope to overcome all obstacles in chasing their chance at redemption.

"This year, the other seniors [and I] are going to really be focusing on intensity and keeping tight chemistry. It's a family, and as a senior not only will I lead vocally but by example," Lowe said.
-Corey Davis

WHO TO WATCH
- Emily Bly (11)- Point Guard
- Carmen Lowe (12)- Forward
- Karley Dobis (12)-Shooting Guard
- Sydney Buck (10)- Shooting Guard

GIRLS' SWIMMING

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL
Mariah Hamil (12) warms up during practice after school.

After recently making final cuts, the girls' swim team has begun its season. Following last year's conference win and state runner up title, the team is determined to set high goals and meet every one of them by the end of the year.

"It is different without some team leaders that left, but we are still excited about the season," Caroline Weigand (10) said. "We have been training really hard and we are excited about the competition."

Carmel, the team's biggest opponent from last season, was its only loss. Therefore, the team's successful reputation puts a lot at stake for this year. In the short amount of time since the final cuts, the girls have begun working on overall skills, leadership, strength and stamina.

"Even though we lost some good senior leaders, we've been doing really well, and we've been having a lot of fun," Reagan Cook (10) said.

Furthermore, coming up soon is the blue and gold intrasquad swim meet. The team is split into two groups: blue and gold, and will compete in its first meet while seniors make the lineup. Further into the season will be a set of regular swim meets, conference meets, and post season meets. In the long run, the team has high hopes to advance to state finals later this year.

"We are going to do anything we can to reach our goals," Weigand said.
- Haiden Steingass

WHO TO WATCH
- Mariah Hamil (12)- Freestyle
- Reagan Cook (10)- Freestyle
- Caroline Weigand (10)- Breaststroke
- Bailey Pressey (11)- Butterfly

BOYS' & GIRLS' DIVING

The dive team will start out the season with a competitive edge and the desire to win. They hope to sweep up sectionals, regionals and make it all the way to place at state.

"Our biggest challenge will be if we make it to regionals. Our regional conference is really competitive and harder to place there than at state," said Jessica Kelley (10).

The boys are confident they will have a pretty good season, with more guys this year to add to the success. They hope to make an impact this season and some have high hopes they will make it to state.

"I HAVE A STRONG SENSE THAT OUR DIVERS WILL TAKE THE TALENT THAT WE HAVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL THIS YEAR."
- MADIE ZIRZOW (12)

"This year, I hope to make it to the state meet down in Indy. There [are] over 400 guy divers in the state of Indiana and only the top 16 make it. The last time Homestead had a guy in the state meet was in 2008, so it would be a nice way to end my high school career," Tyler Warren (12) said.

Regardless of the outcomes, both girls and boys are encouraging each other and setting goals for the season not only individually, but for the team as well. The team has the heart and desire to go all the way.

"I would say individually my goal is to place in the top 16 at state, and as a team, building strong relationships with each other is really important. I have a strong sense that our divers will take the talent that we have to the next level this year. I have already seen high risks and some hard smacks to prove that we are already working hard to achieve goals and to improve our degree of difficulty in our dives," Madie Zirzow (12) said.
-Allison Overlander

WHO TO WATCH
- Madie Zirzow (12)
- Tyler Warren (12)

BOYS' BASKETBALL

With a varsity team made up of mostly seniors from the previous season, this year is the time for a young team to shine. There are just four returning varsity players: Kyle Galovich (12), Trevor Osborn (11), Daymon Osborn (12), and Nick Gamble (11). The players have been practicing nonstop during post season, and have high hopes they will be strong competitors this season.

"Our goal is to improve every time we step on the floor. Play as hard as we can and we'll let the chips fall where they may," Trevor Osborn (11) said.

The boys will tip off with Huntington North as their first game of the season. They're excited to get going with the season and make strides to another undefeated record for conference. They can't wait to get into regular season and see how the year will turn out. Regardless of the results, the guys will play to their full potential every time they step on the court. They all have the heart and the desire to win.

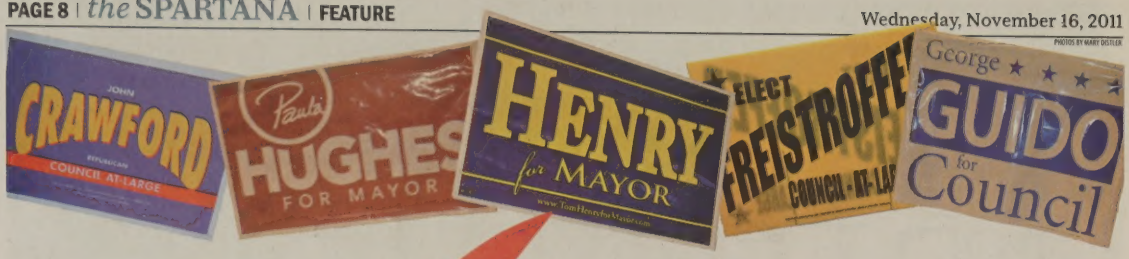
An undisputed record up until sectionals last year made the guys NHC champions. This season, the young guys have a lot to live up to. JV players from the previous season will most likely make up the varsity team. Despite losing its main players, the team is strong and ready to fight for the same title it received last year.

"I expect another conference title and hopefully we can get a sectional. It'll be tough but I'm confident we can do it," Gamble said.
- Allison Overlander

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL
Boy's basketball team hopefuls run drills during tryouts last week.

WHO TO WATCH
- Nick Gamble (11)- Guard
- Zach Terrell (12)- Forward
- Trevor Osborn (11) - Guard

PHOTOS BY MARY DISTLER



students VOTE 2011

[make your voice heard]

[The VOLUNTEERS]

Ally FURNAS

Spartana: What attracted you to getting involved with politics in the first place?

Furnas: I was never interested in politics until I started AP Government with We the People. It is really interesting.

Spartana: What was the best part of your experience?

Furnas: The best part was making phone calls with Darby Cook, Sarah Poorman and Rachel Klein. We couldn't pronounce people's last names.

Spartana: What was the worst part?

Furnas: Calling someone that was dead.

Spartana: Why is it so important to vote?

Furnas: Every citizen has a civic duty to vote, and if you have an opinion you should voice it because you could always make a difference.

Spartana: If you could have voted, who would you have voted for Mayor and why?

Furnas: I think this will be a close race, but I would have to pick Tom Henry because I think he is doing a decent job as current mayor. Paula Hughes would be good as well though; I helped with her campaign and she did a wonderful job.

PHOTO FROM PAULAHUGHES.COM

Shannon MCKENZIE (12)

Spartana: Where did you work, and what was your shift?

McKenzie: I worked at Sonrise and it was from 12-6.

Spartana: What was the hardest part of your job?

McKenzie: The hardest part was how long the shift was and the easiest part was meeting new people and talking about common or different views.

Spartana: Did you vote?

McKenzie: I couldn't vote because I don't live in the city.

Spartana: What made you decide to help with the polls this year?

McKenzie: I decided to help partly because of getting some extra credit for government but I also thought it would be really cool to get involved and be able to see first hand how the process works and all the pieces that come together to make an election happen.

> "The hardest part was how long the shift was and the easiest part was meeting new people and talking about common or different views."
>
> **SHANNON MCKENZIE (12)**
> *Poll Site Volunteer*

[The VOTERS]

Lindsey CARDEN (12)

Spartana: Where and when did you vote?

Carden: I voted at a church close to my house at around 5:30 on Tuesday.

Spartana: How long did it take?

Carden: It took like 10 minutes.

Spartana: Was it confusing as a first time voter?

Carden: As a first time voter it was a little confusing, but they were really helpful.

Spartana: Who did you vote for? What were your main reasons for this choice?

Carden: I voted for Paula Hughes. She seemed very family orientated and had good ideas for making downtown an even better place to bring the family. She also has a much better business stance then Henry. She knows how to spend money and also isn't greedy. She really seemed to care about her community.

Spartana: How did you prepare for the election?

Carden: To prepare for the election I watched the mayoral debate and also just listened to what my parents were saying about the people running.

Spartana: What were the general demographics of your fellow voters?

Carden: There were mostly middle-aged people there when I went to vote. And it wasn't super busy but there was a decent amount of people coming and going.

> "She really seemed to care about her community."
>
> **LINDSEY CARDEN (12)**
> *Paula Hughes Voter*

Emma [illegible]

Spartana: Where and when did you vote?

Graney: I voted at Aboite Baptist Church yesterday after school.

Spartana: How long did it take?

Graney: I was in and out of there in less than 10 minutes.

Spartana: Was it confusing as a first time voter?

Graney: It was a pretty simple process. It would be difficult to be confused, I think.

Spartana: Who did you vote for?

Graney: Tom Henry.

Spartana: What were your main reasons for this choice?

Graney: I voted mainly with the idea: why fix what's not broken?

Spartana: How did you decide who to vote for?

Graney: My mom's friend is Tom Henry's sister, so I was swayed a little bit because of that. Other than that, watching commercials and hearing about both candidates helped me make the decision.

Spartana: What were the general demographics of your fellow voters?

Graney: It wasn't a busy place when I went. That's why it didn't take me very long. It seemed like there were mostly middle-aged people and an even mix of both genders there.

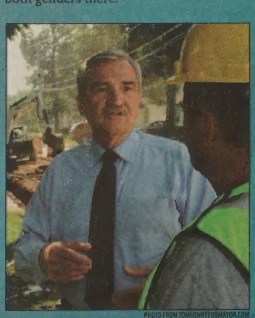


PHOTO FROM TOMHENRYFORMAYOR.COM

ELECTION RESULTS

City Council District 4

Votes 9,598

63.63% Mitchell V Harper (R)

36.37% Mike Avila (D)

City Clerk

Votes 45,825

47.40% Zachary O Bonahoom (R)

52.60% Sandra E (Sandy) Kennedy (D)

City Council At-Large

Votes 131,328

20.91% Martin (Marty) Bender (R)

19.08% John Crawford (R)

17.23% Thomas J Freistroffer (R)

10.16% Gordon W Anthony (D)

11.16% George Guido (D)

17.64% John H Shoaff (D)

3.83% Alexander (Alex) C Avery (L)

Mayor

Votes 46,445

46.32% Paula Hughes (R)

49.84% Thomas C Henry (D)

3.83% D Haley Ahrendt (I)

A Spartana Publication

SURPLUS+

14 december 2011
publications department
homestead high school
4310 homestead road
fort wayne, ind.

Issue Two

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COVER PHOTO | PHOTO BY CONNOR O'HARA

SKAGGS FAMILY

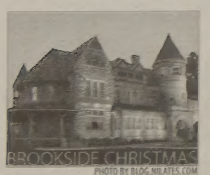
PHOTO BY RARITY.NET

SANTA'S REINDEER

PHOTO BY VISITFORTWAYNE.COM

FORT WAYNE PHIL

PHOTO BY VISITFORTWAYNE.COM



BROOKSIDE CHRISTMAS

PHOTO BY BLOG.NILATES.COM

GINGERBREAD FESTIVAL

PHOTO BY SIMPLERECIPES.COM

FORT **FUN**

In order to get rid of the constant "There's nothing fun to do in Fort Wayne!" complaints, Surplus has taken the initiative to put an end to boredom by providing a list of awesome activites going down in Fort Fun.

DECEMBER:

Holidy Pops --
December 16 and 17
Classic holiday songs are performed by the famed Fort Wayne Philharmonic. Shows will take place at both the Embassy Theatre and Jefferson Pointe.

German Christmas Show --
December 9
Get in the European Christmas spirit as musicians from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland serenade you with classic holiday tunes from America and across the world

A Skaggs Family Christmas Tour--
December 11
The famed musical group the Skaggs Family will be performing at the Honeywell center on December 11. The Skaggs family will be offering many musical ways to get in the holiday spirit.

Christmas on the Lake --
December 11
Taking place at Winona Lake, figure skaters and other ice artists will be beforming many classic Holiday tunes and all while skating on ice.

Heartland Sings: A Winter Solstice --
December 11
Featuring the Heartland Chamber Chorale, and taking place at Wayne Street United Methodist Church, the Heartland group will help kick off the holiday season by performanig classic Christmas tunes.

Festival of Gingerbread --
Now - December 11
Held downtown at the History Center, the Festival of Gingerbread displays all of the finest Gingerbrad art the holiday season has to offer.

Castle Gallery Holiday Show --
Now - January 28
Held in the Castle Gallery on Wayne Street, the Holiday Show gathers all of Fort Waynes most acclaimed artists to display their talent all with a joyous holiday theme.

Blue Christmas --
December 11
Featuring Brent Cooper as Elvis Presely, help ring in the Holiday season Elvis style on December 11 at the Fort Wayne Turners off of Parnell Avenue!

Jim Brickman-A Christma Celebration --
December 12
Held at the Embassy Theatre in downtown Fort Wayne, reknowned vocalist Jim Brickman will hold a special concert at 7:30 p.m. to help gather and unite all during this special time.

AWS Fantasy of Lights --
Now - December 31
Witness over 70 illuminated and animated holiday displays this season at Franke Park. Open on the weekends, this lights show will certainl have all in the holiday spirit.

Winter Breakout --
December 28
Featuring Coungar Hunter, this 80's rock tribute is the perfect concert to help ease those post-Christmas blues.

Christmas in the Castle --
December 11
Held at the historic Brookside, these phenominal decorations are a definite holiday spectacle that should be viewed by all.

The Start of Bethlehem 2011--
December 16-18
This astronomy show with a biblical twis wukk be held at the Saint Francis planetarium. Relive the biblical legend of the star of Bethlehem in this amazing show.

The Oak Ridge Boys Christmas Show--
December 20
This concert held at the Embassy Theatre features country band the Oak Ridge Boys. Join them to help celebrate this magical time of the year.

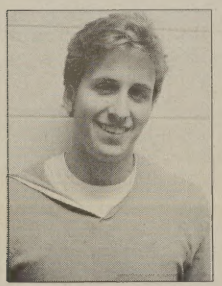
Santa and the Reindeer--
December 17
Join Saint Nicholas himself at the Fort Wayne Botanical Conservatory as he and his trusted Reindeer are sure to take any last minute chirstmas wishes and help you celebrate this wonderful season.

CONNOR'S *corner*

CAROLS *from the* CORNER

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN. THE RADIO CONTINUES TO POLARIZE THE GENERAL POPULATION. ON ONE SIDE YOU HAVE THE JOYOUS PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY WHO CELEBRATE THIS EXTRAVAGANT TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN CHRISTMAS CAROLS POUR OUT OF EVERY SPEAKER THEY COME ACROSS; THE OTHERS ARE THE SCROOGES IN OUR SOCIETY WHO SNUB THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AND HATE EVERYTHING JOLLY.

One evening after playing many hours of Legends of Zelda: Skyward Sword, I saved, quit, and went to the home page of my totally manly Wii console. What I saw shocked and rocked me to my core. According to my Wii, it was already December. Did my eyes deceive me? Surely this was just my mind playing tricks on me. After all, I had spent about 3 hours in front of my TV swinging my Wii remote around haphazardly trying to destroy the Demon Lord Ghirahim, that maybe it was his black magic that was messing with me and making me imagine that it was already December 1st. I ran upstairs and into my kitchen and turned on the radio. *Time for the true test,* I thought. I tuned the radio to 95.1 F.M. What I heard coming out of my stereo confirmed my suspicions. They're here. They're back: Christmas Carols.



By Connor O'Hara
Surplus Editor

The topic of Christmas Carols is somewhat of a hot issue now days. It seems like anyone you come across either loves them passionately, or hates them intensely. I am the former of the two.

Some may know that I am currently employed at the lovely and sometimes smelly, Jorgensen YMCA. My position there is a lifeguard. I joined last winter around January so I was not around to see what mayhem and uprising Christmas music causes the patrons of the pool. You see, there is a stereo in the main guard room that is able to play the radio out in the pool. The stereo is controlled by the guards to play whatever music we see fit. The only guard who is currently forbidden to touch the stereo is junior Emily Olson who, after numerous occasions, felt that country music was the radio station of choice for people soaking in the pool or that hot tub. Little did she know, country music is despised by approximately 99.34% of the human population.

I digress. One afternoon I came into the YMCA to begin my shift as I usually do. Before I went up in the chair to watch of my fellow YMCA patrons with an always attentive and vigilant eye, I decided to tune the radio to, you guessed it, 95. 1 F.M. When I was doing this, however, I was under the impression that Christmas Carols were a classic American pasttime as relevant and as important as baseball, Thanksgiving, and Five Guys Burgers and Fries.

However, when I stepped out onto the pool deck, I was met by two polar emotions: praise and loathing. I discovered that day that some people, do not appreciate Christmas music the way that I and many other passionate Santa-enthusists do. Some people find them obnoxious and repetitive, while I find them classy and one of the finest musical achievements in history.

Some people feel that this time of the year is wonderful except for the radio stations belting out non-stop Christmas tunes up until the big day on December 25th. To me, this sounds like complete and utter insanity.

Sure, I would be first in line any other time out of the year to step up on my soap box and bash the radio for all of it's flat, stale, and overall untalented music that is somehow considered "good" nowadays (I'm looking at you "Pumped Up Kicks").

The very fact that someone could say that Christmas music is obnoxious and annoying does not make any sense to me. Furthermore, these are the people who go home and then listen to music that is *actually* obnoxious and repetitive ("Moves Like Jagger").

Therefore, I have only been able to arrive at one conclusion as I have set out and tried to understand the root causes of hating Christmas Carols: it's impossible. That's right. Impossible. The fools who say they cannot stand the music of the holidays are only doing so to impress their peer and appear "hipster" which is way too mainstream nowadays.

So go ahead Scrooges. Try to pinch your lips together and not sing along with the classic songs of our holiday season. Try not to sing the verses of "Baby it's Cold Outside" event though all you want more than anything is to belt out those beautiful words.

Try not to serenade yourself on Christmas eve to "Silent Night" as you slowly go to sleep while your visions of sugar plums begin to dance in your head.

We Carolers know how hard it must be to hold yourself back, and so we offer you this one simple piece of advice this holiday season: let it out. Do not be afraid to sing at the top of your lungs to "Jingle Bells" in your car at the Homestead parking. We won't judge you. Don't afraid to be afraid to jump and start dancing to "Frosty the Snowman" using the choreographed dance moves you somehow still remember from your winter plays in elementary school. We won't judge you. It's what the Holidays are for.

As I write this, I am turning off my iPod, hoping that Tyler, The Creator and his "Odd Toddlers" will still be waiting for me on December 26. From now till Christmas it will be nothing but carols, and that's the way it should be. Nothing else in music is like them, and nothing else every will be. There have the power to strike joy and happiness into any Scrooge's heart if you only let them in and jam.

CONNOR'S *classic carols*

PHOTO FROM: WHATEVEREBAY.COM

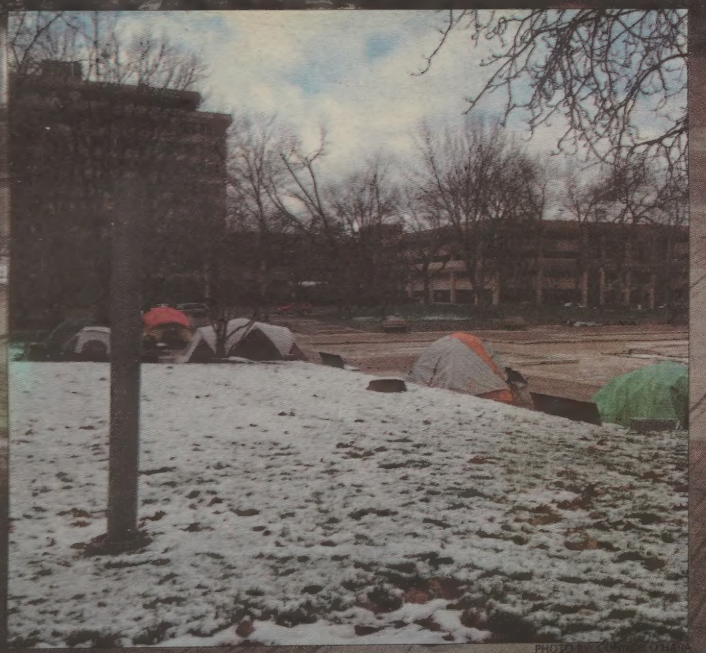
Jingle Bells is one of the most widely known and most commonly sung winter songs in the world. Written by James Lord Pierpont (genius) in 1857, it was originally published under the title "One Horse Open Sleigh." Although commonly thought of as a Christmas song, Jingle bells was actually written and sung for Thanksgiving.

PHOTO FROM: WELLEXPOSED.COM

Commonly subtitled as "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" or as it was orginally subtitled, "Merry Christmas to You," The Christmas song is a classic Christmas carol that was written in 1944 by musician, composer, vocalist, and lyrical visionary Mel Torme and Bob Wells. Covered by some of the greatest artists of yesterday and today, The Christmas Song is classic caroling staple.

MEET THE FACES OF

Many of the Occupy supporters stay in this tent in the center of the park. The tent is filled with pots and pans for cooking as well as cleaning. This not only serves as a home, but also as a headquarters for many of the supporters.



For those Occupiers who choose not to live full time in the main tent, many choose to bring tents of their own. Although usually left abonded during the day, the tents are often filled at night by usually more than one protester.

By Connor O'Hara
Surplus Editor-In-Chief

Anyone who is unfamiliar with the famed Occupy Movement that has swept all across the globe, measuring out right now at about 1700 cities all across the world, may want to take a drive downtown to Friemann Square, 200 East Main Street, to take in what the movement is all about. Although significantly smaller than other more famous movements such as Occupy Wall Street and Occupy Oakland, Occupy Fort Wayne has gained somewhat of a significant following.

The movement originally began in Headwaters Park, downtown, but after being moved by county police to Friemann Square, the participants of the movement are somewhat optimistic that their transfer has only caused more notice and recognition to their cause. Although the Occupiers have been moved and been talked to a number of times by police, the participants say that their relationship with local authorities is not strained and actually rather they are well respected by each other.

Their relationship is, "really positive." says Chris, a fellow Occupier that has been with the movement since it has started. "We've been talking to them, they've been talking to us. If anything gets brought up, on either side, then we'll actually go and talk. We won't just go and conspire amongst our individual groups."

One of the main messages portrayed by the Occupiers is that their efforts are not based on an individual basis. Repeatedly they refer to themselves as a group, or one sole entity.

Friemann square is scattered with barren tents that during the day are unoccupied since most of the protesters take to the streets to get their voices heard. This strategy, as referenced by many is crucial to their tactics to get things to change.

But what exactly is that the Occupiers want to change? This question has been asked ever since the occupy movement began in late September. The most common slogan given to the Occupiers is the 99%, a phrase which they coined themselves. So what is it exactly the 99% want? The answer, surprisingly, is different for different protesters.

Sitting outside the Occupy Fort Wayne main tent is a white board. On top it reads: "Why Do We Occupy? In One Sentence." The board is filled with answers all ranging in topic and severity. One entry reads: "Take the influence of corporations out of my government! Take money from the war machines and give to veteran programs!" The quotation is initialed D.G. Most likely referring to an Occupier named Dan whom is a war veteran. There are a lot of people like Dan at Occupy Fort Wayne.

Other notes on the board demand a "transparent democracy" and even things so drastic as "fairness among wages."

Such claims as "fairness among wages" have given the Occupy Movement a chance to referred to as Communist organizations but many right-wing conservatives. However when asked about this topic an Occupier named Zeke, who in fact was wearing the Communist emblem on his jacket, helped clear things up.

"I agree with a lot of Marx's observations, but as for Communism seen in the Soviet Union and as we see in Communist China, I don't agree with that." Zeke said. "If you really want people to have the power, then why do you censor their information so much?"

One of the major forces of power among the Occupiers is their praise for the First Amendment right of freedom of speech. Many of the Occupiers criticize the Government's tendencies to censor a person' s freedom of speech an expression. Even such examples as high school were brought up as institutions that censor the students to what they say and what they're allowed to say. Ironically, many of the occupiers who are proesting graduated high school only a few years back, and so their memories of the overbearing adminstraion are still fresh in their mind.

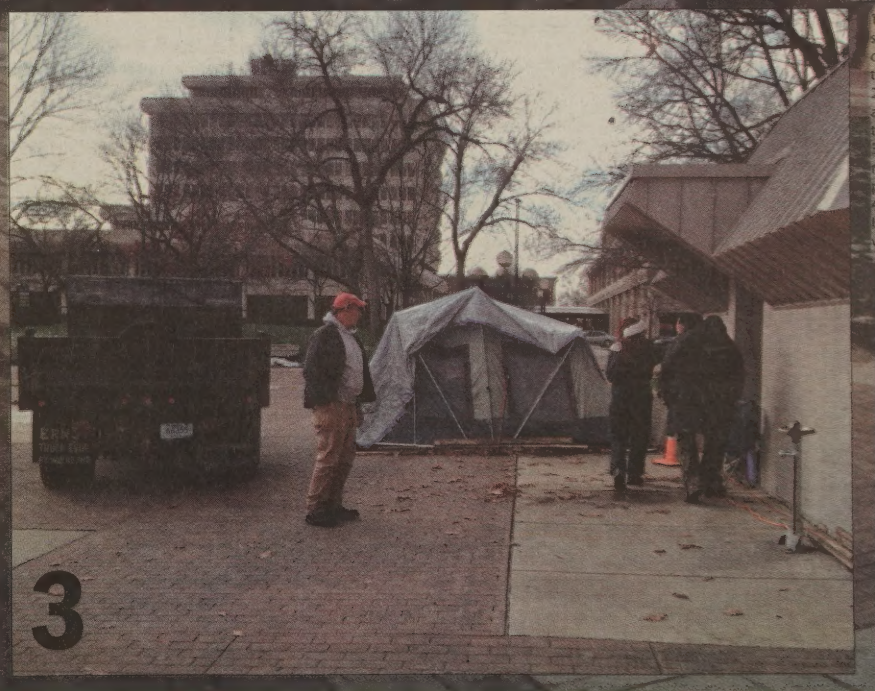
"When you walk in there you're not a citizen anymore." Zeke said. Chris, who was standing next to him at the time, nodded in agreement.

Although the idea of what the Occupiers want may not be totally in unison, there is still a certain feel of brotherhood amongst these people. There is absolutely something to be taken away from a group of people who share such strong ideas so passionately and are willing to anything to defend them. Before leaving Friemann Square, Zeke said one of the most powerful things said in the entire visit to Occupy Fort Wayne:

"In every evil empire there's been a lot of similarities in the way that they've slowly cracked down civil liberties and public information and access to these things, and general trust in the community. It's scary to see these types of things happening here."

Although these claims and accusations may seem far-fetched to some, they are are all too realistic to the brave men and women who step up to have their voices heard. Currently, the Occupy Movement has gained one of the greatest following of any civil protest in recent history, and it appears that it will only grow stronger with each passing day. These people are changing things; Whether people like it or not, it's working.

OCCUPY FORT WAYNE



1. This select group of people refer to themselves as Ocupy Fort Wayne. However, some participants are in fact missing from this photo. These people range in age and occupation. To them the Occupy Movement is more than a simple protest, it is one of the most important moments in history for our country.
2. This is the scene from the entrance of Friemann square. To many these tents serve as homes, as well as a symbol for the struggle that Occupy Movement is willing to go through in order to get ther word out.
3. Occasionally, members from the Fort Wayne Parks Department will stop by the movement to help them with any problems that seem necessary. The movement has praised many local groups for their contributions and helpfulness.
4. This is whiteboard states the mission of the Occupy Fort Wayne movement. The board sits outside the entrance to the main tent. The board not only serves as a motivational tool, but also as a way to educate the public.

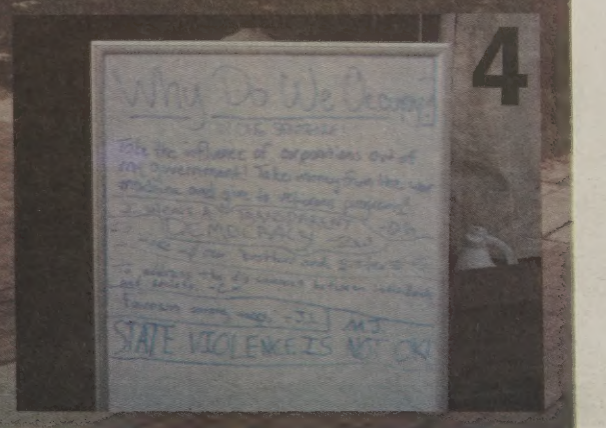


PHOTO FROM: ANOMALOUSMATERIAL.COM

J. Edgar: Not DiCaprio or Eastwood's Best

ALTHOUGH THE LIFE OF FORMER FBI LEADER AND POLITICAL FIGURE J. EDGAR HOOVER WAS AN ENIGMA, THE MOVIE SEEMS TO THINK THAT ITSELF SHOULD BE TOO. DICAPRIO GIVES HIS FIRST SO-SO PERFOMANCE IN HIS LONG CAREER BUT THANKFULLY CLINT EASTWOOD'S VISIONARY TASTE AND ARMIE HAMMER'S INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCE SALVAGES THE FILM.

By Connor O'Hara
Surplus Editor-In-Chief

From 1924 to 1972, J. Edgar Hoover was the head of the Bureau of Investigation. Hoover chose to add the word "federal" to the title of the organization in 1935. Under many political administrations from Coolidge to Nixon. During that time Hoover was often considered to be the second most powerful man in the country. Hoover's life now is something of an enigma. Many people remember Hoover as the politician who lived with his mother until she died and would on occasion dress up like a woman. Also, Hoover had a very close, almost too close, relationship with his lifelong friend Clyde Tolson who, after Hoover's death, inherited his estate. Many people consider Hoover to be a closeted gay man, and this aspect of his life is explored fully in Clint Eastwood's latest directorial project, *J Edgar* , that details the life of Hoover.

The film was written by Dustin Lance Black, who also wrote the screenplay for the phenomenal film, Milk, which detailed the life of former California politician Harvey Milk. Milk was an openly gay man, and was later assassinates for this later in his career. However, J. Edgar is much more than the portrait of the struggles of a gay man. It is portrait of our country. It shows how far America has come, and the darkness of the skeletons that are still in our closest.

The film opens to J. Edgar Hoover's (Leonardo DiCaprio) narration that tells of the events that inspired him to become one of the most known secret-keeper in the United States. He tells of his colleague who was murdered by communist terrorists during the Red Scare of the 1910's.

The film periodically hints at Hoover's repressed sexuality. This becomes even more prevalent when Clyd Tolson (Armie Hammer) appears in the film. Hammer, whom you may remember as the giant who played both Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss in David Fincher's masterpiece, *The Social Network*. Hammer gives one of the best performances of his career as the repressed Tolson, Hoover's lifelong companion and possible lover.

The film, as a biopic, is wonderful. Few films are able to spawn seven decades so effortlessly, but then again it is the brilliance of Clint Eastwood that is behind the camera. The stories that are referenced in the film are perfectly executed. Ranging from the fight against Communism, to the search for the Lindbergh baby, the film drops the allusions wonderfully.

It's not until the middle of the film that it seems to lose it's focus. It becomes more about the love drama between Hoover and Tolson than about the life of the two men. There's no problem with the fact that the film focuses more on the repressed love between Hoover and Tolson, but rather it feels that the movie is only doing this just for. . . well . . . the sake of doing it. The story does not feel genuine. As for detailing the life of Hoover, it does a moderately good job, but it's about halfway into the film that Eastwood looses his touch with the powerful story he started out with. He becomes lazy and sloppy. He drops any connotation of the emotions that the characters are going through and simple does the audacious for the sake of doing it.

The most disappointing part of the film, as much as it is hard to type, was DiCaprio's performance. It was flat and lacked significant substance. There was great potential for DiCaprio to seize this role and perhaps even secure and Oscar nomination or even win, but unfortunately the chance was squandered. The most distracting part of the film was the mountains of makeup but on DiCaprio to make him appear, supposedly, as the aged Hoover as he began to put on weight and appear more old and ragged. The makeup does not achieve that, but in fact serves as a distraction for much of the film.

Despite the flat performances and overall misdirection, *J. Edgar* was an adequate movie. The performances of Armie Hammer and Judi Dench (who plays Hoover's mother) saved the film from becoming an all out bore and disappointment. Expectations were high for this film when it first began production and now it seems that everyone else is slightly disappointed and confused as to what Eastwood's goals were in making the film and the overall performances in it.

GAME REVIEW

The fifth installment in the Elder Scrolls series, Skyrim, is a video game landmark.

By Jacob Cook
Surplus Contributor

—

On 11/11/11, Bethesda Studios released their highly anticipated fifth entry of the Elder Scrolls video game series. Called Skyrim, the game starts a new story that follows the same game design as the highly successful games that precede it. While Bethesda has had incredible success with their earlier games, they have struck video-gaming gold with Skyrim.

Set 200 years after the events of Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion, Skyrim begins in a similar manner to the other games in the series. The player begins their story as a nameless prisoner, unaware of the crimes he has committed, on the verge of execution. Moments before his execution, the player is ironically saved by the story's main protagonist, a dragon named Alduin. As the main character ventures into the world of Skyrim, it is revealed by others that the player is the legendary Dovahkiin: Dragonborn.

One of the game's most notable features is the remarkable freedom the game offers. First, the player has the ability to completely decide on the character's appearance, and whether or not they should wear certain armor or sport deadly war paint on the character's face. Second, and more notably, the character has complete freedom on how they play the game. While there is the option to strictly follow the main story line and complete this first, the game offers hundreds of side missions. The player has the opportunity to join many in-game organizations and complete jobs for them, earning both money and experience. With these side missions, the game literally offers thousands of hours of game play without completing the entire game.

COOK'S RATING 9.7

The game maintains Bethesda's liking for a realistic game (Well, as realistic as a game where you slay dragons could be). The player must consume food and water to maintain their health, and is capable of cooking their own food to enhance their character. Along with the ability to cook food, the player is once again able to participate in common activities, such as blacksmithing, harvesting wheat, and mining coal.

Bethesda's main improvement for Skyrim comes with the game's physical appearance. Graphics and game play are smoother and better looking than any of Bethesda's earlier games and boasts a very large, complex single player map. The game's landscape is fitting to the story line. Large, snowcapped mountains surround the player as they wander through grass plains and rocky caves. The game's improved graphics add to the flow of player motion, and especially advance the game's combat.

Adding to the freedom of choice presented by the game is the player's choice in their fighting style. Following Elder Scrolls custom, the player is able to choose to place their focus on magic or physical fighting. While Skyrim favors the hack-and-slash sword wielders, magic has found a prominent place in the game through the use of Thu'um, or Dragon Shouts. These shouts, also called Words of Power, are words the character can speak that unleash a variety of powers. Such powers include the ability to freeze enemies in place, summon a lightning storm, or push back opponents with unrelenting force. This exciting new angle for combat greatly enhances the flow of the game and presents all sorts of opportunities for gamers.

For those loyal to the Elder Scrolls series, there is one addition to the game that stands above the rest: dragons. The story line describes how dragons were once prominent in Skyrim, and are returning to fulfill a prophecy made thousands of years before. As Dragonborn, it is the main character's duty to fight and kill these dragons to protect the people around him. While there are several dragons placed in specific locations around the game, Bethesda's software engine for Skyrim enables for dragons to be "unscripted." In this, it is possible for the player to encounter a dragon anywhere he may be and at any time in the game. The dragon's actions are completely random and not programmed specifically into the game. This feature, while beneficial to the game's ratings, might create problems for the more inexperienced player, as they are the most difficult adversaries the player will face in the game.

Along with dragons, there are a slew of mythical creatures that the player is able to encounter in the game. Ranging from mammoths to giants, the player will never become bored in the open world. Battles with vampires, trolls, and the occasional sabre-tooth tiger will keep gamers vigilant and excited.

Boasting hundreds of hours of game play in total, the main story almost seems to fall by the wayside. The player has the choice to follow any path they choose, which becomes very distracting and perhaps takes away from the game's main quest. However, once the player chooses to engage themselves in the game's story, it is difficult to stop.
Skyrim is already shaping up to be one of Bethesda's most successful titles ever. Its announcement last year at IGN's E3 event won it Best in Show, and it has already been nominated for 2011's Game of the Year. With critics raving and players already addicted, Skyrim is a winning title for all who choose to play it. Echoing shouts of "Dovahkiin, Dovahkiin" from the Viking-esque choir that constitutes the game's soundtrack are enough to keep gamers excited to play for a long time.

Final Rating: 9.7 (Not a 10, simply because the next Elder Scrolls will likely be better)

THE CHARTS

as of december fourteenth, two thousand eleven

1. **Christmas**
   -- Michael Buble
2. **Here And Now**
   -- Nickelback
3. **Talk That Talk**
   -- Rinhanna
4. **Take Care**
   -- Drake
5. **My Life II**
   -- Mary J. Blige
6. **Under The Misteltoe**
   -- Justin Bieber
7. **21**
   -- Adele
8. **Clear As Day**
   -- Scotty McCreery
9. **Watch The Throne**
   -- Jay-Z & Kanye West
10. **Mylo Xyloto**
    -- Coldplay
11. **Speak Now (Live)**
    -- Taylor Swift
12. **Elevate (Soundtrack)**
    -- Big Time Rush
13. **NOW 40**
    -- Various Artists
14. **Concerto**
    -- Andrea Bocelli
15. **Tha Carter IV**
    -- Lil' Wayne
16. **Sorry For Party Rocking**
    -- LMFAO
17. **The Band Perry**
    -- The Band Perry
18. **Breaking Dawn**
    -- Soundtrack
19. **Ultimate Hits**
    -- Bob Seger & Silver Bullet . ..
20. **Hands All Over**
    -- Maroon 5

Source Bank

the SPARTANA

NEWS Jiwon and Sang Jun Park each won musical honors at the Music Teachers National Association Junior Piano Competition. 2

OPINION The new Dust Bunnies Nude Maid Service has gained interest locally. Our editor analyzes its importance to the community. 3

LIFE Beloved teachers that have moved on from Homestead are interviewed for an update on retirement and current activities. 4

SPORTS Winter weather activities like snowboarding and skiing stay popular for winter break trips and long weekends. 6

FEATURE Students and teachers reminisce on holidays memories, presents, photos from their childhoods. 8

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4310 homestead road
fort wayne, indiana

Friday, December 16, 2011 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Scheduling policy causes frustrations

Students offered less time to tweak classes

BY JOE JANIZEK
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Students unhappy with their classes will now have fewer options to attempt to change their schedule. Changes to the Schedule Change Procedure have decreased the times during which students may try to change their schedules, and the ways in which they may attempt to do so.

Additionally, in previous years students had been able to request the same English teacher for both semesters of a class, but will no longer be able to do so this year. This measure was originally implemented as an attempt to improve students' English grades, and was prioritized due to the requirements surrounding the English ECAs (End of Course Assessments).

"All students must pass their grade 10 ECA in order to graduate, and having the same teacher for the entire year is often beneficial to students." English Department Chair Connie Christophersen said. "If a student has the same teacher for the entire year, the student does not have to work twice in a year to start their relationship with their teacher."

While the policy was primarily prioritized at grade 10, it was still put in place for other grade lev-

▸▸SEE 'SCHEDULE,' PAGE 2

PHOTO FROM WORDPRESS.COM

"Are you in favor of shortening winter break to less than 10 school days in order to compress the school calendar for the academic year?"

District Parents
No: 613 votes
Yes: 536 votes

District Staff
No: 346 votes
Yes: 150 votes

SOURCE: SACS CALENDAR SURVEY RESULTS

School board considers changes to winter break

BY MEGAN CATER
Writer

The School Board has proposed a shorter winter break for the 2012-2013 school year.

When the School Board met to discuss the proposed shorter winter break, board members decided to post an online survey on Powerschool. Parents were asked to answer a one-question survey regarding their opinion of shortening winter break to lengthen summer break. Some parents think that shortening winter break by a few days and adding more days to summer break would benefit students. The results of this online survey included 53 percent of parents voting no for a shorter winter break and 47 percent of parents voting yes to shorten the winter break. Many staff members also participated in this survey, with 70 percent voting no for a shorter winter break and only 30 percent voting for a shorter winter break.

"I did the survey and voted for a shorter winter break," SACS parent Mary Jo Rumancik said. "The shorter winter break would allow students to get out sooner and have a better chance of getting summer jobs."

Because Southwest Allen County Schools have started school earlier each year, many people think changes can be made to prevent any more summer cuts.

"I have heard from so many believing we begin school too early in August," school board member Tim Loomis said. "Many, including myself, believe that the current 17 day winter break is too long and believe it is the first place to look to lengthen the summer break."

Most other area schools do not go on winter break this year until December 21. According to Loomis, an alternative to a long break

▸▸SEE 'BREAK,' PAGE 2

Survey shows increase in student drug use

BY TORI BARNARD
News Editor

Students have increased their use of marijuana, alcohol, cigarettes and prescription drugs, according to a recent report to the school board based on the results of the 2011 Survey of Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use.

According to these results, there was an increase in marijuana and alcohol use among students in every grade for the past 30 days when the survey was taken. Furthermore, there was an increase in binge-drinking among juniors and seniors. Overall prescription drug use more than doubled from 2009 to 2011.

Although there was an increase in use for most grade levels in these categories, School Social Worker Anita Gross points out the positive data taken from the survey.

"These slight increases are consistent with national trends," Gross said. "The good news is that both middle school and high school levels are still below the state average of usage of cigarettes, marijuana and alcohol."

Gross attributes the sharp increase in prescription drug use among students to high availability within students' own homes.

"There is a misunderstanding about the harmfulness of these drugs," Gross said. "Unfortunately these drugs are easy to get to."

> "[Student drug use] is a continual issue. Random drug testing provides students with one more reason to say 'no,' so it is still important.
>
> **ANITA GROSS**
> *Homestead Social Worker*

This survey, conducted by Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC) of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Indiana University, is one of the district's preventative measures aimed to curb student illegal substance use. Additionally, any student involved in an extra-curricular activity or any student who drives to school must submit to random drug-testing, when the school draws names randomly from the pool of participants in order to provide all students with an incentive to avoid drug and alcohol use, according to the student handbook.

"I think the school goes really far to prevent smoking weed, and, personally, I don't think the school can do much about it," Timothy Leary* (11) said.

Although the district remains under state and national averages in the use of many illegal substances, the administration continually exerts preventative measures.

"[Student drug use] is a continual issue," Gross said. "Random drug testing provides students with one more reason to say 'no,' so it is still important."

Although this anonymous survey is a major indicator of student drug usage for the district, many

▸▸SEE 'SURVEY,' PAGE 2

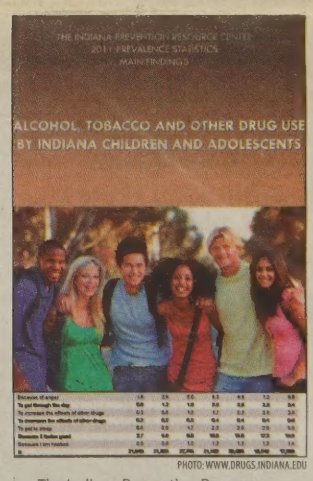
THE INDIANA PREVENTION RESOURCE CENTER
2011 PREVALENCE STATISTICS
MAIN FINDINGS
ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG USE
BY INDIANA CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

PHOTO: WWW.DRUGS.INDIANA.EDU

The Indiana Prevention Resource Center's statewide drug survey results were published earlier this year. Final data is not yet available for a similar survey taken by Homestead students.

BRIEFS

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES
Seniors should inform their counselors when they recieve an acceptance to a college. Emailing or bringing in the letter are options to get the acceptance on file.

WINTER BREAK EXTENSION
The holiday break is from December 17 to January 3. Tuesday, January 3, 2012 is the return date for students to start second semester.

PICK UP BOOKS
Students in Mr. Clough's second semester Caucer/Shakespeare class may pick up their books in room 214.

LILLY SCHOLARSHIP
The deadline for this full tuition opportunity is noon on January 9, 2012.

Red carpet-themed Semi-Formal receives praise

Students lack adherence to new regulations for keeping dance appropriate

PHOTOS COURTESY FACEBOOK

Top Left: Leah Stinson (10) pins a boutonniere on Grayson Bastin (11). Top Right: Shane Talley (12) and Courtney Klefeker (12) attended a dinner previous to the dance. Bottom Left: Chelsie Doster (9), Maggie Reecer (10) and Sophia Rosenblum (10) pose for pictures before they go to the dance. Bottom Right: Frankie Zirille (12), Kyle Lake (12) and Ryan Petrill (12) went as a part of a large group of dates.

BY SYDNEY BRUMMETT
Writer

The Semi-Formal dance took place on December 3, 2011 and involved an innovative "Red Carpet" theme.

"After brainstorming for awhile, the 'Red Carpet' theme stood out as the best and was sent for approval," Robert McCoy (9), Student Government Representative, said.

This "Red Carpet" theme provided every student in attendance with the chance to feel like a star for a night. Most students enjoyed their time at the dance because of the difference in atmosphere from the typical school day.

"Dances are so much fun," Madie Willson (11) said. "I love dancing and getting dressed up."

Even though students enjoyed this year's theme, there was room for improvement.

"I think I would have set up a video camera in front of the picture screen that hooked up to a TV," Scarlett Keane (10) said.

Although students enjoyed the dance, attendees were distraught over the idea of a $20 ticket in addition to the money they would spend on dress clothes and dinner.

"It's not worth the $20; that's extremely overpriced," Tessa Lutz (10) said. "I can do other things three times over for $20."

After taking the price of tickets into consideration, a number of groups of students decided to spend their time doing other things at home or going out with friends rather than attending the dance.

Despite a new administration-mandated ban on grinding,

▸▸SEE 'SEMI-FORMAL,' PAGE 2

WINTER WEATHER

Meteorologists predict harsh winter season ahead for driving, school schedule

With the harsh winter season soon approaching, students are presumably anticipating snowball fights, sledding, tobogganing, ice skating, and other recreational winter activities. However, the weather is also known to have an effect on school delays and cancellations. As the school year has already accumulated two delays – one being snow-related – various students are expecting more in the future.

"It's going to be a long winter," Aaron Bowser (11) said. "However, I enjoy delays and cancellations because there just random days where I get a break from school, and I need those every once in awhile."

According to the National Weather Service, this year's winter is going to be one of the worst ones the Midwest has seen. Indiana is expected to receive over fifty inches of snow over the next couple of months. Several students are not looking forward to the school year being extended due to the possibility of many cancellations.

"It's great when [cancellations] are happening, but when it starts to delay summer break, I regret it," Noelle Prete (12) said.

The procedure for deciding whether or not a school day will be delayed or cancelled is a very precise process.

"I usually get up very early and start driving roads to look out for severe fog, ice, or snow," Dave Rarick, Southwest Allen County Schools Director of Transportation, said. "Lately, we have had to reroute buses because of flooding complications. We also keep updated the night before and the morning of the school day with the weather service, and then assess the conditions later in the morning. We then make the decision by 5:30 based on the safest route for the community."

Although there was concern last year regarding whether certain days should have had school when cancellations were made, students and administrators assert that the decisions made are for the best safety of the students.

"There are many different areas that we have to monitor with completely different demographics," Rarick said. "If one parent sees that roads are fine where they live, roads on the other side of the area might be completely different. People have to understand that we always air on the side of caution."

- Priya Parikh

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

▸▸SURVEY
CONTINUED FROM 1

are skeptical about the accuracy of the results because of a general lack of student honesty when taking the survey.

"I think the results are not accurate at all," Leary said. "Students were definitely not serious and took it as a joke."

However, the administration is confident about the accuracy of the results in reflecting the general trends of district drug use.

"You can't look at the exact numbers but most focus on the trends instead," Gross said. "We know there will be some students that minimize or exaggerate their usage."

In the report to the school board, Gross points out the importance of the results that demonstrate that most students had not used cigarettes, marijuana or alcohol within the past 30 days of taking the survey.

"Most students are making good choices, and these students should be recognized," Gross said. "It's fantasy that all students are involved in illegal drug use."

> "I think the results are not accurate at all. Students were definitely not serious and took it as a joke."
>
> **TIMOTHY LEARY (11)**
> *Drug User*

Although this may be the case according to the survey results, some students maintain that most students have, at some point in time, used one of the substances they are questioned about in the survey.

"I don't know anyone that hasn't done a drug," Leary said.

Although students were not questioned about their use of it in the survey, another drug, K2 or Spice, has become presence among high school students.

K2 or Spice is a synthetic form of marijuana. On March 1, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) made the possession and distribution of this drug illegal; however, only specific chemical structures of varying forms have been outlawed, thereby causing confusion as to the legality of these many forms of the drug.

Four students have been hospitalized as a result of K2 or Spice use this year, according to Student Resource Officer Ingrid Herriott.

"This drug is a problem because there is no government control of the not yet outlawed forms, and they could kill students," Herriott said.

Students typically use K2 or Spice instead of marijuana because of confusion regarding the legal status of the drug. It is more easily accessible, and there is confusion regarding the school's ability for drug testing. However, according to Herriott, there are two different types of K2 or Spice testing available to test students.

"There has been a death in Indiana this year as a result of K2 use," Herriot said. "It is really dangerous."

*Name has been changed.

Sibling pianists aim for national honors

Brother 'suddenly treated like a celebrity' as musical accolades pour in

BY LAURA ZENG
Writer

Siblings Sang Jun Park (9) and Jiwon Park (12) are both successful pianists who are making strides as musicians on both the state and international level. Sang Jun Park was honored as a Division Finalist at the 2011-2012 Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Junior Piano Competition, while Jiwon Park has received praise for her piano-playing since she was in grade school and most recently performed with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra (ISO) over summer vacation.

Sang Jun Park has been playing piano for seven years and said that he started because his sister was already taking lessons. The freshman was surprised when he won the Indiana division of the MTNA Competition because this was the one competition that his older sister had yet to win. He plans on keeping the same repertoire he used to win the statewide competition and hopes to advance to regional competitions and eventually the national level, which takes place at Carnegie Hall.

"I'm honored to represent Indiana at the next level," Sang Jun Park said.

Sang Jun Park said that in the future, he'll be working on a Mozart concerto and will possibly debut with an orchestra, though he's unsure if he wants to pursue a musical career as he is more interested in engineering and medicine.

7
number of years of piano experience freshman San Jun Park has.

Jiwon Park, on the other hand, fully intends to pursue piano on a college-level, saying that she is currently preparing for auditions at Peabody Conservatory, Julliard, Jacobs School of Music, New England Conservatory, Curtis, Oberlin and Yale University. She has been playing piano since she was four years old, giving her 12 years of musical experience.

12
number of years of piano experience senior Jiwon Park has. She has been playing since she was four years old.

Like many musicians, Jiwon Park plays the piano for emotional expression.

"The constant struggle to make the piano 'sing' despite its percussive sound appeals to me," Jiwon Park said.

Over the summer, Jiwon Park won first prize in the 2011 ISO Young Musicians Contest and also had the opportunity to play with the ISO in downtown Indianapolis.

"My time playing with the ISO was amazing," Jiwon Park said. "I was suddenly treated like a celebrity, given my own dressing room, and [given the opportunity to] discuss with the conductor."

Jiwon Park has won numerous awards on both the local and state level in the past, most notably 1st place at the Indiana Music Teachers Association Piano Competition and 3rd place at the New World Concerto Competition. She has also performed with the Fort Wayne Youth Symphony and has attended the Jacobs School of Music, an international piano academy, since 8th grade. In 2012, Jiwon Park plans on taking her piano-playing across the world, traveling from Chicago to New York City to Hawaii to Paris, in order to compete at competitions and study at piano academies.

As Sang Jun Park moves on to the MTNA Division competition in Kalamazoo, Michigan in January, he looks to win and, thereby, qualify for the National Competition.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

When the fire alarm sounded during fifth period on Wednesday, November 16, both students and the administration were thrown as there was not a fire drill originally planned for that day.

While it was a real fire alarm, there was no real fire, according to Assistant Maintenance Engineer Gary Gross.

Homestead has a high-tech fire protection system which includes photo sensors that detect smoke. A fire panel in the office is alerted when the photo sensors go off and triggers the alarm.

"In the kitchen of the oriental line, [cafeteria workers] were cleaning a pot, and the steam was seen as smoke by the photo sensors, which set off the alarm," Gross said. "There was no danger."

Gross and other employees verified the cause of the fire and worked to fix the problem in the kitchen. Gross said that this was the first time this exact incident had occurred.

"Any incident like this you have to deal with as it comes," Gross said. "All we can do is take preventative measures."

Perchance a student or staff member pulls the fire alarm, the school would immediately know which alarm had been triggered. However, all persons within the building would still be required to evacuate.

"If somebody pulled the alarm, we would have to go and find out why," Gross said.

The fire alarm caused confusion, concern and ruckus among students who knew the fire alarm had to be real, as a drill would never normally occur during lunch.

"The first thing I thought was 'Yes, I get to get out of math!' Then I thought someone must have pulled it or the school was burning down," Allison Blake (11) said.

Other students just expressed disdain that the alarm interrupted their lunch time.

"I thought, it's going to take forever to get everyone out of the cafeteria," Grant Bassett (11) said. "I wasn't done with my food yet." – *Laura Zweig*

▸▸SCHEDULE
CONTINUED FROM 1

els. This year, however, while the guidance office will still try to keep students' schedules as consistent as possible, students will not be allowed to make specific requests to maintain their teachers. The schedules that students select at the end of one year will be set in stone for the next year.

In addition to this policy change, students' ability to change their schedules has been limited in other ways.

While the guidance office was unavailable for comment, new restrictions do not allow any requests "to change or drop a class" after the start of the summer, according to the policy put in place at the end of last school year. Also, for this school year, only "error corrections" were processed after June 8, 2011. Students have reacted negatively to the change in procedure by the school, saying that it may adversely impact the quality of education.

"The new rules unfairly deprive students of the ability to make choices about their own classes," Andy Stumpf (12) said.

Although the new policy certainly limits students in some aspects, Christophersen says that the balance achieved by the new policy may actually have some positive effects.

"Schedule changes can have a ripple effect, causing changes in other schedules," Christophersen said. "When some students request to make a change, it can create a class size imbalance which can hurt other students."

She also stated that changing English teachers itself would not inherently be a bad thing, and could potentially give students a better breadth of education.

"In English classrooms, students can gain a lot by getting a different perspective from a different teacher," Christophersen said.

While acknowledging the potential benefits of the scheduling procedure, students maintained the belief that it was overall a negative change.

"It may allow the counselors to focus on other aspects of their jobs, but it is unfair to force students into an unpopular class simply for the sake of 'numbers'," Stumpf said. "It is hard for students to know exactly what to expect, so they need to be able to switch if the class is not what they had hoped for.

▸▸SEMI-FORMAL
CONTINUED FROM 1

students continued to perform this provocative dance and make other students nearby feel uncomfortable. The administration used the Friday video announcements as a format to announce that students must remain 90 degrees at all times during the dance.

"I witnessed some repulsive displays of conduct," Laura Laudeman (10) said.

Seniors in particular enjoyed the dance more than other students because it was their last Semi-Formal dance; however, they did not feel as nostalgic because comparatively, Prom is more important to most seniors.

"[My last semi dance] did not mean too much considering it was just at the school," Brenna Boyd (12) said. "Semi is no prom."

The overall experience of the dance on the students usually impacts their decision on whether to go to the next dance or not.

"I would definitely go to the next Semi-Formal; I go for the amazing decorations, fun and memories," Keane said. "Getting a new outfit or wearing a dressy one that you already have is not so bad either."

Overall the student government thought the dance went well.

"At our meeting yesterday we discussed how successful we thought the dance was," McCoy said.

Although the rules were not always followed, students still had fun dancing the night away.

▸▸BREAK
CONTINUED FROM 1

would have been to start school a few days later in August, extending the summer break while also allowing for a midweek start, and then going to December 21 before beginning winter break.

> "I agree with [shortening winter break] because I like the idea of getting out as early as possible in the spring."
>
> **ELLEN WAITE**
> *Latin Teacher*

Many students and parents complained about the early start we had this year when school began on Monday, August 15. Starting that early only gave students and teachers about two and a half months of summer. By changing the schedule of winter break, school board members could alter the first week and have school start in the middle of the week, easing students and teachers into the new school year. Furthermore, many teachers and students prefer to be out of school in the spring rather than the summer.

"I agree with [shortening winter break] because I like the idea of getting out as early as possible in the spring," Latin teacher Ellen Waite said.

Winter break is what students look forward to the first semester of the year because it provides them with two weeks off of school during the holiday season. Many families plan trips involving traveling long distances to visit family and friends. The holiday season is the busiest time of the year for airports because so many people are traveling. If winter break was shortened, many students fear that they would not have the opportunity to go on such trips.

"I do not think winter break should be shortened because my family goes out of town, and we go on vacation like a lot of families," said Cassidy Sheehan (10). "We couldn't go anywhere far if break was shortened."

Although students return to school on January 3 this year, maintaining a similar winter break schedule would mean that students and teachers would not return to school until January 8 next school year, according to Loomis.

"I think most parents, staff and students would prefer to have a few more summer days in exchange for a more traditional winter break schedule," Loomis said. "We can't do anything about this year's calendar but hope we can make improvements in the future."

However, several students remain skeptical regarding the benefits of a shortened winter break.

"Taking this winter break time could cause some major issues with the students and their parents," Emmett Elizondo (10) said.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Hans Gudakunst leaves school for the afternoon during the November 30 snowstorm. Along with shorting winter break, the new policy would not stop snow days or delays from counting against hours and days spent in school, thus days can still be added at the end of the year.

the SPARTANA STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY 2011-2012

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Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

PHOTO FROM FLICKR.COM

Cain suspends presidential campaign

By Colton Shaffer
Copy Editor

As many presidential hopefuls came forward to grapple for the Republican candidacy, the obviously unqualified were quickly distinguished and eliminated. The most unqualified yet was undoubtedly Herman Cain. His piggish ignorance knew no bounds, and several highlights of his campaign begged everyday citizens to question his mental state of being. Thankfully, Cain has suspended his campaign following allegations of sexual misconduct during his stint as CEO of the National Restaurant Association. Considering all available evidence, it can be concluded that Herman Cain's presidency was nothing more than a joke, and a bad one at that.

Cain's staunch Islamophobic stances conclusively proved his inability to properly lead a country. Cain repeatedly stated that under his presidency, a Muslim would be ineligible for a position in his Cabinet or a position as a federal judge. Furthermore, Cain stated that he believes a community should have the right to prevent a mosque from being built just because of the discomfort it may cause. Cain's basis for these ideas is his belief in a "creeping attempt to gradually ease the Muslim faith into our government." These archaic, simple-minded and clearly discriminatory views have no business anywhere near the White House.

Even more ridiculous are Herman Cain's tax policies. His 9-9-9 plan has fallen under much scrutiny for being nearly identical to that which is used in the videogame SimCity. The policy is this: a nine percent national sales tax, a nine percent income tax and a nine percent corporate tax. Although Cain has stated again and again that it would not, this plan would have substantially raised taxes for all but the richest Americans. Completely throwing out the current tax code for something that raises taxes for American citizens is laughable.

Aside from his ludicrous policies, Cain's personal life is in no way prepared for the White House. Since the start of his campaign, several allegations have come forward concerning his sexual misconduct in the workplace and, most shocking of all, an allegation of a thirteen year extramarital affair between Cain and a "friend" Ginger White. Cain's flippant reactions to these allegations, brushing them off as if they were nothing, further proved his blatant ignorance. Accusations of a topic as serious as these deserve every effort to prove them baseless, rather than Cain just claiming them to be so. If Cain couldn't speak honestly about his personal life to America, it's very unlikely he would have been able to speak honestly about a topic as serious as nuclear proliferation.

More than anything, a President is a public servant. The President of the United States has a moral obligation to captain this country in a way that treats all citizens equally and upholds the Constitutional rights of all people, no matter his or her personal beliefs. Now that Herman Cain, former Presidential candidate, has dropped out of the race, America can rest easily at last. Herman Cain's bid to turn the steamship of America into another Titanic is finally over.

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weeks of campaigning brought highs and lows to Cain. During this time he experienced a lead position in the GOP polls, 14 Republican Party debates, news of his 9-9-9 plan for economics and the 4 sexual harassment accusations that ultimately ended the effort.

Antagonists of new maid service overly idealistic in views

By Ryan Boylan
Opinion Co-Editor

It's safe to say that most modern Americans, when faced with the sight of a woman being blatantly sexually objectified, will display at least mild discomfort. However, with such an influx of gentlemen's clubs, pornographic media and other seemingly disregarded exploitative institutions in modern society, this nearly forced respect for women appears to hide repressed animalistic impulses that still haunt the prospect of egalitarianism. And while some people wish to mandate the eradication of such institutions for the sake of civilized society, restrictions so harsh could alter American society in more ways than intended.

One such controversial institution is Fort Wayne's very own Dust Bunnies Nude Maid Service, recently formed in the footsteps of many other similar services throughout the Midwestern and Southern states. But in a city with five strip clubs and various sexual novelty shops that essentially provide the same brand of enjoyment to their customers, the controversy over the maid service is eerily morbid. Even though the initial reaction evoked from the notion of an in-home strip service may account for striking similarities to prostitution, the shock should be quelled after the details are comprehended.

Dust Bunnies charges $60-70 an hour for "light cleaning" from a woman that is anywhere from half-way to fully naked–nothing more. Security personnel accompany the women to make sure they aren't being forced into performing questionable favors or being photographed for posterity, and the "no touching" rule listed on the company website is strictly enforced. So rather than a pseudo-prostitute prancing around her clients' houses while performing ambiguously sexual favors and risking her safety and sexual integrity for the sake of a paycheck, it's more like a striptease house call without the sensual touching permitted by a normal strip club.

But there's something about that bold "no touching" rule that doesn't seem quite right, that hints at something completely wrong with this whole idea. Could it be that the last time most of us heard that succinct phrase was circa fifth grade when our mothers nearly had a hemorrhage at the sight of us within three feet of a highly priced household appliance at a local department store? No matter how you look at it, services like this turn women into an object for men to play with. But does that merit the complete elimination of all sexual services that have the same effect?

> "Because just like food, water and sleep, sexual stimulus is one of the basic human physiological needs."
>
> **RYAN BOYLAN**

And it's easy to say "Of course! The pig-headed men that submit to such reprehensible carnal desires need to be restricted for the sake of social equality." But the issue is much more complex than that. There are, contrary to popular belief, ways that women objectify men–a fact that is painfully apparent to most cultured citizens who have ever sat in a movie theater showing any film during which Taylor Lautner takes off his shirt. Hollywood capitalizes off of the sexual fervor of both men and women every day, and who's to say that's any worse than what Dust Bunnies is doing?

While Dust Bunnies' very existence may go against every virtue concerning equality taught in every Kindergarten class that you have ever been in, restricting its rights as a business solely because of its questionable moral standing is an overly-idealistic approach. In reality, there will always be institutions that violate egalitarianism, and there will never be a society in which all sexual desire is curbed solely for the sake of gender equality. Because just like food, water and sleep, sexual stimulus is one of the basic human physiological needs. Dust Bunnies Nude Maid Service is just as necessary a faction of the service industry as any local restaurant or hotel and should not be defiled simply because it violates the old-world morality that is only subscribed to by a modicum of individuals.

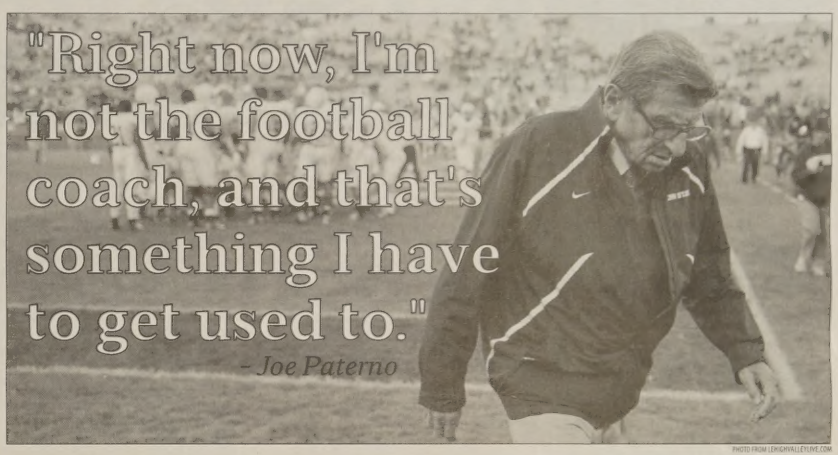


PHOTO FROM LEHIGHVALLEYLIVE.COM

Paterno fails responsibility as human being to report abuse

By Sarah Bade
Writer

By knowing about a crime and not taking action against the criminal as soon as possible, an otherwise innocent observer, in a sense, commits the crime as well. This is the case with Penn State coach Joe Paterno.

A half a century has passed since Paterno started his career began building his reputation. However, in a matter of days, his reputation was destroyed, and he lost his job. To make the situation even worse, his name was even removed from the Big Ten title trophy.

Paterno, also, is being critiqued by everyone from the president of the United States to his close friend Bobby Bowden. The flaws of his program have even fallen under attack. The only object that still stands to show what he has accomplished is the statue outside of Beaver Stadium, but with the knowledge that people have asked about the statue indicates how much his stock has really fallen.

Everything that he said that he stood for as a coach was undone for one thing that the former coach did not do, which was to go to the police with abuse allegations. All Paterno would have needed to do was to go to the police and tell them about how his former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky molested young boys, and his reputation, his title, and his job would all still be intact. The Sandusky scandal is so massive that it will most likely be attached to Paterno's name for as long as history permits.

Though both Paterno and Sandusky are facing the consequences for their actions, Paterno is not a target for any criminal investigation.

Penn State's board fired Paterno on Nov. 9 for not going far enough to alert the authorities. Not only did the Penn State board think that Paterno made a mistake, former Ohio State coach John Cooper did as well and said, "Did he make a mistake? Sure, he made a mistake. And is he paying the price? Absolutely and rightfully so...But I'm not going to forget all the good things he did."

Even though Cooper will remember the good things that Paterno accomplished, there is no guarantee that the public's opinion will stay the same about Paterno. Public opinion quickly turned against the former coach, who for so long had been the moral compass for college athletics. The former coach was credited for always doing the right thing in a business where so many others had gone wrong, but now Paterno is just one of many athletic scandals.

Jerry Sandusky, alleged child abuser, is held in police custody following allegations of child molestation during his time as a coach at Penn State.

PHOTO FROM ATOASTTOWEATH.COM

Stop Online Piracy Act poses threat to free speech

By Clair Pranger
Opinion Co-Editor

While the United States government espouses ideals o, freedom and certain inalienable rights, the politicians who are elected to run it see fit to destroy those ideals with yet another bill promoting censorship.

On Oct. 26, an initial group of twelve bipartisan co-sponsors presented the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) to the House of Representatives. The act's official purpose is to "promote prosperity, creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation by combating the theft of U.S. property and other purposes." That purpose, however, only entails the minor effects the bill would have on the Internet and American businesses.

A hearing on the act took place on Nov. 16, and it immediately attracted scathing criticism. The magazine *eWeek* stated, "The language of SOPA is so broad, the rules so unconnected to the reality of Internet technology and the penalties so disconnected from the alleged crimes that this bill could effectively kill e-commerce or even normal Internet use."

Of the representatives at the hearing, many admitted they did not have any idea of the impact SOPA's regulatory provisions would have on much of anything. Most were not qualified to discuss its effect on the Domain Name System Security Extension, which essentially guarantees that each domain name is secure. The technological ignorance of many of the politicians is worrying when dealing with a bill that defines what the Internet can and cannot sanction.

While proponents of the act take a rose-tinted view of its effects, claiming it is only intended to protect jobs and the integrity of the Internet in America, the ramifications are far broader. If this act is passed, the U.S. Attorney General would have the power to force ad networks like Google and Yahoo and payment processors like Paypal and Visa to stop doing business with companies that infringe on copyrights. It does not stop there, as under the act, the government would have the ability to dictate what websites search engines can display.

The bill also plans to target such social networking sites as Twitter and Tumblr, shut down sites like Flicker and vastly alter the provisions under which YouTube operates. This bill not only flies in the face of the Fair Use section of the Copyright Act of 1976, it would also bring, in a sense, Internet Armageddon.

SOPA is nothing more than the government's blatant attempt at censoring American businesses and citizens. Free speech cannot simply disappear, as this bill would have it; it is too much ingrained into the fabric of this nation. To let piracy undermine the founding principles of the United States is a failure on the part of not only the government, but also the very citizens who stood by and watched it happen.

This bill is essentially the sledgehammer intended to swat the mosquito that is online copyright infringement. While copyrights need to be respected, there is no need to bring the Internet and all companies associated with it to their knees. The House of Representatives must recognize the Stop Online Piracy Act for what it is and must stop it before it stops the Internet.

facebook crawl

Every Sunday night Jacob Cook will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.

Question: "What are your plans for this winter break?"

Cara Lutz (12) ▶▶ "Catching up on lost sleep, visiting family and spending time with friends that I've neglected the past few weeks."
Kyle O'Brien (12) ▶▶ "I'm heading up to the north pole with Kyle Galovich to hit on Mrs. Claus and the women."
Seth Johnson (10) ▶▶ "I'm planning on being a football playing- king- in space... with a mustache, along with Spongebob and Squidward"
Jake Burgess (12) ▶▶ "I'm gonna get real spiritual."
Whitney Carroll (10) ▶▶ "I'm going to eat until I can't anymore, swim, sleep and swim."
Morgan Gascoyne (12) ▶▶ "This winter break, a few friends from Princeton will join me on a winter journey to the Michigan slopes."
Carly Hamilton (10) ▶▶ "First I'll make snow angels for a two hours, then I'll go ice skating, then I'll eat a whole roll of Tollhouse Cookie dough as fast as I can, and then I'll snuggle. Either that or I'm going sledding on the North Pole with Santa."

PHOTO FROM WWW.CHRISTMASROCKWORDS.COM

Above: Kacie Taivalkoski (11) and Meredith Lynch (12) participate in a Buddy Quiz in Mrs. McCombs' AP Calculus class. Right: Mr. Hill shows his Etymology class how to make a handmade book for a project. Below: Jamie Baer (11) works on book-binding for her Etymology project

OLD SCHOOL new tricks

PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Unconventional teaching methods inspire student learning

By William Ngo
Writer

Though social and academic goals vary for each student, teachers have one main objective: to convey new knowledge to students. To achieve this goal and to keep students interested, some teachers give long lectures, and some entice students with unique teaching styles.

English teacher Stephen Clough is one example. Every other Friday, Clough regularly brings the English portion of the class title to life when his AP Literature class participates in Tea Day. On Tea Day, students bring their own teacups to class and drink tea. Through his personal experience of English culture during trips to England, Clough uses the simple idea of a tea party to allow his students a small glimpse of English customs.

Tea Day provides the students with a better connection to the material they are studying, which makes the material more interesting and more noteworthy.

"The kids loved it, so I ended up making it a part of the curriculum," Clough said. "I think it helps the students get a better feel for the class."

Although it is one of the more favored activities in Clough's classroom, students said that Tea Day does not disturb student performance nor does it disrupt the information Clough presents to his students.

"It allows the class to relax and enjoy the absence of a regular scheduled day," Matt Faley (11) said.

Scott Hill, English teacher, is another example of avant-garde teaching. Instead of sitting in a desk, Hill will occasionally take his classes outside to read, allowing students to enjoy the works in a laid-back setting.

"By the time [students] make it through years of schooling, it is too easy for them to see an activity and think to themselves 'oh, this again' and tune out," Hill said.

Despite Hill's attempt to reach jaded students, he believes a paramount teaching technique has not yet been discovered. By experimenting with new ideas in his classroom, he utilizes experience to understand further both the way his students learn and what captures their attention.

> "Information is information... How it is presented, though, is what will keep the attention of students."
>
> **SAURABH SHARMA (12)**
> *Etymology Student*

"Just the fact that we got to walk out of the school made everything ten times better," Saurabh Sharma (12) said.

In T.J. McCombs's math class, another unconventional teaching environment, students are given permission to work in groups of four or five on class activities, projects and quizzes. Students are given the opportunity to complete their assignments with the assistance of their group members.

Because group work can provided a stronger sense of accuracy and a stronger foundation to complete assignments, McCombs's style of teaching pilfers stress off of her students.

"The buddy quizzes and team assignments promote collaboration," Jiwon Park (11) said. "Through working with others, I figure out other methods to approach to a problem."

As the school year progresses and the material grows more complicated, the group method can be particularly useful. Buddy quizzes may present an illustration of cheating, but McCombs said that if there is any slacking, there is a repercussion of working alone for the rest of the year.

"When students have to communicate their knowledge, they are strengthening their depth of conceptual understanding of the topic," McCombs said.

Although some teachers implement ways to engage students and their interests in their studies, lecturing is often a standard technique and is one about which complaints are made. Some students complain that lectures are boring and repetitive, but in some circumstances, a lecture is the best way to present information. While it does not sound appealing, lecturing has its justified place in classrooms; yet, students must be engaged or else their attention will stray.

"Information is information," Sharma said. "How it is presented, though, is what will keep the attention of students."

During a lecture, students scribble down notes as they please, but a more engaging class environment encourages them to learn and to focus on central concepts. Though branching out to new teaching methods and to new activities is advantageous, implementing knowledge and encouraging education is the utmost target of the teachers and of the school system.

"It should be expected that lecture classes are always going to be a part of school, but not all of them are unbearable," Park said.

NOTEWORTHY STYLES

BACKWARDS LEARNING
In Mr. Lenfestey's physics classes students go home and learn the lesson on their own and go to school and do their homework in class. This way, students can ask questions on the concepts and get help on their homework.

TEA DAY
Every other Friday, Mr. Clough's AP English Literature and Composition classes have a Tea Day to drink tea, watch movies, talk about current class reading material and enjoy learning in a different atmosphere than is usually experienced in the class room.

BUDDY QUIZZES
In Mrs. McCombs's AP Calculus class, students are allowed to buddy up with a partner and do quizzes as collaborative effort. Quizzes help students work together and help each other. Although students work together, students receive individual grades for their work.

SINGING IN CLASS
Every Friday in Mrs. Venderly's English classes students sing the "Friday Song" created by Venderly to celebrate the end of the week. From standing on chairs to dancing, students are awarded treats for their enthusiasm in the performance. Past students can also return to her room on Fridays to sing for a treat.

Students look forward to cold weather activities

By Aarika Mankey
Writer

It's that time of year again- snow is falling, jackets are reappearing and decorations are being hung for another anticipated winter season filled with holiday celebration. Winter signifies many different things for many different people. To some, it means hot chocolate beside the fire during the bitter winter months or sledding and building snowmen and angels in the snow. To others, it means baking in the kitchen and spending time indoors with both family and friends. During wintertime, no matter what pastime is appealing, one thing is certain: a rejuvenating break away from the stress of school is awaited by all.

Family custom is a key aspect of the winter season. During the holidays, everyone has traditions that add a special touch to the time of year. Whether it be candlelit church services on Christmas Eve, family get-togethers with an abundance of food on Christmas Day or a family gathering around the tree, every tradition has great significance. Of all the sources of wintertime cheer, Christmas is a seasonal highlight for several students.

"My favorite part about winter would definitely be Christmas. My family has always had this tradition each year where us kids take turns putting the angel on the tree, then we sit around and watch the lighting of the tree," Tia Caspar, (9), said. "Afterwards, we have this fun tradition of watching Disney Princess movies... I have a feeling that particular tradition may be getting old, but it's enjoyable nonetheless."

Winter brings many predictable activities and traditions, but others have unique touches that make the season complete.

"I like the lights the best of all. Sledding is enjoyable too, but there's nothing like the bright and sparkling lights on the trees and houses around Christmas time," Autumn Adams, (12), said. "My favorite part of Christmas, for sure."

During the holidays, family traditions are special because each family chooses to celebrate together in a different way. For some, staying indoors near the comfort and the warmth of a busy oven completes a holiday to-do list.

"My family has this tradition that each year on the day before Christmas Eve Day, we all get together and we bake cookies all day long," Adams said. "After we're done, you're so sick and tired of the smell and idea of cookies that you never want to eat another cookie again. But somehow I always end up eating more anyway."

Although winter carries bitter cold and blustery winds, as the temperature drops, families keep their spirits high with holiday traditions.

Headwaters Park hosts an ice rink open to the community every winter. Since it opened the numbers joining the fun have increased.

PHOTO FROM WWW.VISITFORTWAYNE.COM

Former teachers enjoy free time in retirement for new experiences

By Laura Zweig
Copy Editor

Every year Homestead bids farewell to beloved teachers who have dedicated years to education. With their newfound free time, among other activities, former teachers have chosen to travel, pick up a hobby or move to be with their families. But one thing they never do is forget about their time at Homestead.

Gregory Fryzel, former French teacher, worked as a teacher for 31 years, 21 of which were spent in Southwest Allen County Schools, before retiring at the end of the 2009-2010 school year.

"I retired because I thought that it was time to retire. I was happy," Fryzel said. "But it was time. I wanted to go out while I was still happy." Fryzel and several other teachers took advantage of a package with benefits from SACS for agreeing to retire at the end of the school year. This deal was so SACS could hire new, less-experienced teachers at a lower salary.

> "I retired because I thought that it was time to retire. I was happy."
>
> **GREGORY FRYZEL**
> *Former French Teacher*

Since retiring, Fryzel has been living a leisurely life of cooking, writing and reading. Each day is something new.

"I have also been very fortunate to do a good amount of traveling that would not have been possible had I not retired," Fryzel said.

Cary Cavacini, former English teacher, has also been taking it easy. He retired in last June after 40 years in the teaching profession. He taught at Homestead for 30 years.

"We should all know when it's time. It's tough having a life regulated by bells. It's okay be old school, but young teachers have fresh minds and fresh ideas," Cavacini said.

Despite a recent injury involving a torn Achilles tendon, Cavacini is enjoying his time to relax. Cavacini, his wife and a few of their friends traveled to Italy for two weeks in October, a luxury they could never have enjoyed while still teaching.

Susie Johnson, a former English teacher who retired in 2007 after a heart attack, is still working to strike a balance between relaxation and work.

"Since retiring I have not really settled into any sort of routine, and after teaching and having a regular schedule for so many years, I have found that to be a difficult adjustment," Johnson said. "Many things interest me, so I have been dabbling in many areas."

However, Johnson has found another way to fill her time: substitute teaching.

"After a time off, seeing my mother through end stages of cancer and the concluding days of her life, I wanted to be with kids again in the worst way - so back I came! Working with young people is the most satisfying thing to me - I learn something new every day from some young person, and additionally, it really does keep one young," Johnson said.

All three former faculty members look back on their time at Homestead fondly, citing the school's students and teachers as the source of their content.

"My time there was very happy, for the most part. I have had some remarkable colleagues and have always felt the support and encouragement of the administration," Fryzel said. "But most of all, I look back with fondness for the many young people who graced my every day with their beautiful presences."

Cavacini agrees, especially having experienced the extracurricular side of Homestead as well.

"The teachers and students are a classy bunch. I hope someday students at Homestead realize the quality of education they received and the dedication of their teachers. I also relish the 24 years as a Homestead football coach. There were great kids and much talent, which continues to this day."

But perhaps the most lasting aspect of their teaching experience has been the valuable life lessons garnered from students.

"I learned that teaching is not a matter of trying to control young people but rather to love them and encourage them, to support them and care for them–and, of course, to teach them." Fryzel said.

Hallway etiquette lessons needed by student body

ALISON WONDERLAND

BY ALISON MANSFIELD
Life Co-Editor

A dogged white line divides the thoroughfare. "What is this achromic barrier?" you ask. The painted partition of a dark desert highway? The nodding white buoys of a swimming pool? The brazen borders of a race track? No–it is the carpeted hallway of Aboite Elementary School.

The individual who designed the interior of my elementary school was an absolute genius. With a single strip of white flooring, this humble carpet installer gave birth to an environment where stepping in the middle of the hallway was the ultimate taboo. The result: passage from class to class without the threat of being trampled by a gawky 2nd grader.

But alas, gone are the days of swings at recess, the days of gym class that wasn't state-sponsored terrorism and the days of cubbies for school supplies we didn't really need. The sense of order instilled in us by that white line has vanished. The once-gawky 2nd grader is now a 6'2" zombie, deafened by iPod headphones and armed with a two-ton calculus book- the scourge of the hallway. Homestead is desperately in need of a little Walkers' Ed.

Rule 1: Patriotism on the Roadway- Seriously. The cardinal sin of hallway passage is to tread on the left side of the hall (or heaven forbid, plow straight through the middle). As smashing as the oh-so-classy British are, this is Amurrca- don't be a poser. On this continent, we drive on the right side of the road. Ergo, it only makes sense that we should walk on the right side of the hallway, yes?

Rule 2: Handling Awkward Collisions with Grace- It has happened to everyone. That dreaded "we just ran straight into each other-and I tried to go right and so did you-and now we're doing this terrifying line-dance-shuffle" moment. In the event of a head-on collision, do not exchange information, do not call your insurance agency and do not file a police report. Simply step to the right, keep calm and carry on.

Rule 3: Don't Be That Kid; You Don't Really Have That Many Friends- Traveling with a friend is wonderful, but not when your joined-at-the-hip camaraderie is at the expense of others. If you're inclined to walk and chat, walk in a cluster, not in a line that inconveniently spans the breadth of the entire hallway. Human barricades are so not cool. Also, when traversing the halls, the rules of amusement park rides apply. Do not extend your hands outside the car. Standing to the side, holding out your hand for a high-five from anyone and everyone who concedes is an invitation to get slapped.

Rule 4: Turning with a Wide Load- If you've ever witnessed a semi-truck making a turn, you'll note how the trailer portion swings out into the middle of the road before it straightens. The same principle applies to backpacks, just on a smaller scale. When turning a corner, check your rear view to ensure an innocent passerby won't be smacked by your turtle-pack.

Rule 5: PDA. Just Don't.- Love is a beautiful thing. And to those adorable jerks that are fortunate enough to be in love, I say this, not in spite, but in truth. Stop. Please. We all know Henry Heartthrob is irresistibly huggable, but to the rest of us, you're nothing but a roadblock. Making out in the middle of the hallway only instigates distracted walking and road rage. Before PDA becomes an invitation for an impromptu round of Red Rover, just cool it with the PDA.

Rule 6: No Speeding in a School Zone- I'm not suggesting we need to go around posting speed limit signs quite yet, but there is an optimal walking speed that should be followed. Seniors, whilst walking in the hallway, please remember you are not on a Sunday stroll with your grandmother. It's obvious you don't have swagger; there is no need to walk in slow motion. And seriously, sprinting is totally unnecessary too. Yes, freshman, that means you. Just think of how torturous those long six minutes are while you wait for your Chef Boyardee to heat in the microwave. Trust me, you have time.

When it comes to hallway etiquette, really, the rules are quite elementary. There may not be a white line painted on the ground, but traffic rules of engagement should be respected nonetheless.

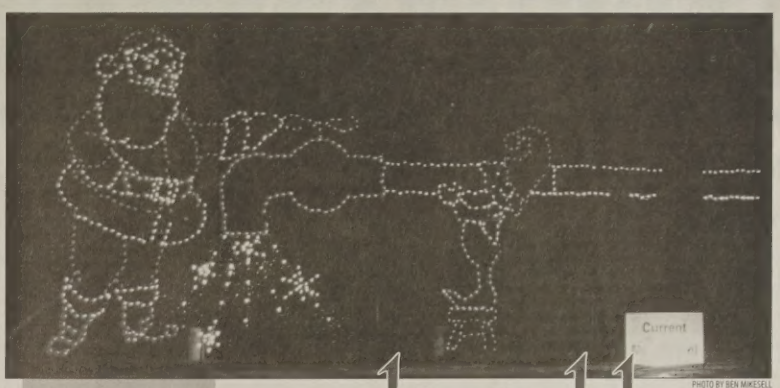


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

deck the halls

AROUND THE FORT

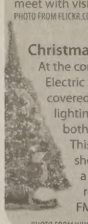
Letters to Santa: Macy's department store has stations set up to have costumers write letters to Santa. The letters are free, but by your contribution of words, the store will donate $1 in hopes of reaching $1,000,000 to the Make-A-Wish foundation. This effort runs until December 24th.

PHOTO FROM MACYS.COM

Carriage Rides: Downtown plays host to three companies that offer carriage rides. Find a friend and split the cost to experience Fort Wayne in a new way this season.

Best Christmas Lights: The famous house in Emerald Lake continues to stand out for the best use of decorations. Some nights Santa visits the home to meet with visitors as well.

PHOTO FROM FLICKR.COM



Christmas Flashback: At the corner of Taylor and Electric Streets is a house covered with vintage lightings and decor both inside and out. This unique look shows off through a choreographed routine to music on FM 95.7.

PHOTO FROM WWW.VISITFORTWAYNE.COM

Holiday themed festivals offer various activities for all ages to celebrate season

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Co-Editor

'Tis the season...to attend holiday festivals in Fort Wayne. To promote holiday cheer during the cold winter months, students visit annual events such as the Fantasy of Lights, the Festival of Trees and the Gingerbread Festival.

The 27th annual Festival of Trees was held at the Embassy Theater from November 23 to November 30. A tradition since 1984, artists decorated trees to put on display and to support the Embassy's restoration. This year's festival had a "Let It Snow" theme and included 54 tree designs, an animated holiday window on Harrison Street, youth entertainment, dance performances and Santa Land.

"The show was my favorite part because it was very interesting," Amber Sheets (9) said. "The dances were well put together."

> "People love the decorations. You'll see many cars parked or stopped and people posing for pictures and having a fun time."
>
> **TAMMY DO (11)**
> *Fantasy of Lights Visitor*

As the name implies, the main component of the Festival Lights was thematically-decorated trees. The trees were individually awarded by a panel of judges and with a People's Choice award. Lopshire Flowers's "Let It Snow. OH NO NO NO," a tree that sang Christmas carols, was named Most Creative by the judges, and the Embassy organ crew's "Piping Hot Christmas" took first place.

On a bright note, this year, the Anthony Wayne Services (AWS) Foundation is holding the Fantasy of Lights again in Franke Park. This drive-through event includes over 70 light displays stretching over a mile and a half and will last until December 31.

"I love the vibrant decorations. They really uplift the holiday spirit," Tammy Do (11) said. "I also like that even though the regulations at the Fantasy of Lights prohibit people from leaving their vehicles, we all do it anyways. People love the decorations. You'll see many cars parked or stopped and people posing for pictures and having a fun time."

According to the festival's website, since it began in 1995, the event has raised $500,000 for disabled adults and disabled children. Key Club members also volunteer at the Festival of Lights. Members have been collaborating with Kiwanis volunteers for ten years to ensure that the festival runs successfully.

"One great aspect of Key Club is that students have a chance to interact with community members. With this particular event, students are getting that interaction but also helping spread holiday cheer to those who come to see the lights. I also hope that this is a fun event for students to work while still helping support a great cause," Key Club sponsor Kristin Padgett said.

The History Center is holding their annual Gingerbread Festival again this year, which opened November 25 and will continue until December 11. Over 100 gingerbread houses submitted and have themes such as Halloween, Dr. Seuss and the movie Up. Contestants ranged from elementary children to teenagers to professional artists.

Awards were given in the categories of family, professional, best within age (for both groups and individuals) and historic them.

"I loved the delicious gingerbread cookies they sell at the festival," Kate Troutman (11) said. "I look forward to them every year! An old lady sells them, and I pretend my grandma made them for me."

In addition to the gingerbread cookies and the gingerbread houses, the festival includes a variety of special holiday exhibits. An exhibit of "A Christmas Carol" (that once hung in the Patterson Fletcher Department Store), a Wolf and Dessauer display of animatronic characters and a display of holiday photos from past years.

"During the Christmas season, it's good to have these festivals because we live in such a small town with nothing to do," Do said. "These festivals give people a way to enjoy the holidays."

GIFT GUIDE 2011

Paper and ink has given way to pixels and light. As e-readers continue to alter the literary sphere, the award-winning Nook Color is the best tablet at a reasonable price. With an ultra-responsive 7-inch multi-touch screen, the Nook Color is ideal for exploring traditional books and scanning colorful magazines. Access to e-mail and web via built-in Wi-Fi, millions of apps, and music through Pandora, Grooveshark and Rhapsody combine to make the Nook Color e-Reader the ultimate media experience--the perfect gift for the bookworm on your list.

$199- Nook Color e-Reader from Barnes&Noble Retailers

Now in new, limited-edition colors, Beats headphones are the perfect gift for the audiophile on your list. With an advanced driver design for precise audio clarity and a folding, on-the-ear design to help seal out external noises, Beats by Dr. Dre allow you to hear sonic details you could never notice with other headphones.

$180- Beats by Dr. Dre can be purchased at BestBuy, Walmart, Target and RadioShack

PHOTOS FROM FLICKR.COM

These canvas-lined, sequin-covered shoes are the perfect gift for the fashionista with a conscience. With every pair of TOMS shoes purchased, one pair is sent to a child in Argentina without shoes. TOMS Glitters are the perfect way to give back this holiday season while staying in style.

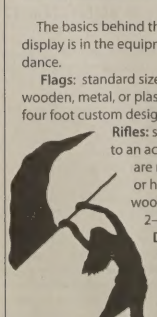
$54- TOMS Glitters from www.toms.com

Winter guard enhances fall skills to develop routine

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

The basics behind this artistic display is in the equipment and the dance.

Flags: standard size is a 6 foot wooden, metal, or plastic pole with a four foot custom designed "silk"



Rifles: shaped similar to an actual rifle, they are made of solid or hollowed-out wood and weigh 2–5 pounds

Dances: various types of dance are used to give a lyrical, jazz or modern feel to the whole show

Members hope to finish as well as band with winning performance

BY ELIZABETH HUMANSKY
Writer

Band season has ended, but for Winter Guard members, the work is not over. Winter Guard girls are currently preparing and practicing for this season's Winter Guard Competition in which they will compete against 40 other high school color guards in front of five judges.

Winter Guard is an indoor performance activity for the winter season; members perform a 5- to 7-minute dance of spinning rifles and flags into the air and compete against other schools for the state title.

"I don't want to give out too many details yet as we are still developing the idea, but I will say that the title of the show is 'We R Who We R.' It's going to provide opportunities for the performers to express their individuality and their personalities with a variety of musical selections," Color guard instructor Jonathan Meader said.

Although the theme changes annually, the competition process remains the same. Competitions are held in high school gymnasiums and can have up to 40 group performances, each with an 8- to 10-minute time limit to set up and to present its show. After the performance, a panel of four judges rates the performance under four different categories- equipment, visual ensemble, movement and general effect. Scores and winners are announced at the end of the day.

Of course, there is a lot of work that goes into the performance. A successful competition requires weeks of training, practicing and flag and rifle twirling. Members put in hours of work inside and out of school, including late practices and Saturdays.

"The training starts off fun, but once it gets closer to show time, it gets kind of busy," color guard member Madison Barnes (10) said.

However, when competitions come around, the hours of work pay off. In past years, the guard has stood out with its creative themes and with its choreography.

"I feel like Homestead has a unique voice. I feel like we have been striving for the past couple of years to find our identity. More than anything, I want the performance to be fun for both the girls and the audience. We try to pick music and a show concept that is both accessible and entertaining. I personally feel that if the performers don't love the show, there is no way that the audience will," Meader said.

After the win at state with the marching band, the guard said that it hopes to do as well in Winter Guard. To achieve this goal, the winter guard will need to keep up both personal and team goals.

"In any competition winning is the ultimate goal, but it is not the only and most important goal. At the end of the year, I want each member of the guard to feel successful. I think each member will define that success in a different way. My personal goal is to create a show that the girls and the audience love and that gives the opportunity for the girls to express their personalities and to showcase their talents. We have an incredibly talented group of performers who are ready to bring something new and exciting to Indiana Winter guard," Meader said.

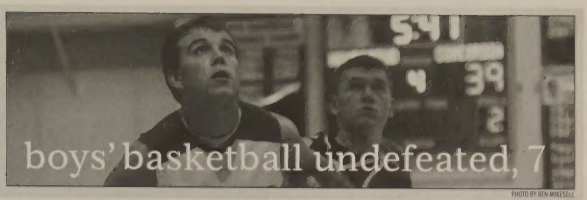


PHOTO BY BEN WIKESELL

Skateboarder gets sponsorship from Pennsylvania company

Spartana talks with Noah Ferrise (10) on his skateboarding career, new sponsorship

Spartana: How did you get into skating?
Ferrise: Actually, my friend Dylan Mante (10) started skating with one of his friends. I thought it looked fun, so I started skating with them.
Spartana: How long have you been skating for?
Ferrise: Well I started in fourth grade just rolling around, but I started to learn tricks when I was in sixth grade.
Spartana: What is your favorite trick?
Ferrise: The heelflip. It's when you pop the board with your back foot while jumping and kicking it with the heel of your front foot and letting it flip - then landing back on the board.
Spartana: Who is your favorite pro skater?
Ferrise: It's hard to choose, but as right now, it would have to be Cody McEntire.
Spartana: Around Fort Wayne, where do you like to skate?
Ferrise: My old favorite place to skate would definitely be the indoor park that closed two winters ago. It was called Oasis, but since it closed my new favorite place to skate is Lawton Park.
Spartana: What type of board, deck, or wheels do you prefer and why?
Ferrise: I prefer a board from FREE or a RISE, a skateshop downtown by the skatepark. Bones wheels are really good; Bones makes a certain type of wheel strictly for street skating, which I prefer due to my style.
Spartana: There's a rumor that you recently earned a sponsor. Can you elaborate?
Ferrise: I just got sponsored by a company in Erie Pennsylvania called FREE SkateboardCo. They send me two boards a month, shirts, hats, stickers, and other accessories such as can koozies.
Spartana: What are your future plans for skating?
Ferrise: I just want to keep skating as long as my body lets me. I want to keep doing what I'm doing, filming, progressing and having fun.
Spartana: Any other thoughts or activities you want to talk about?
Ferrise: For anyone who is interested in skating, I encourage you to try it out because it is definitely a positive experience.

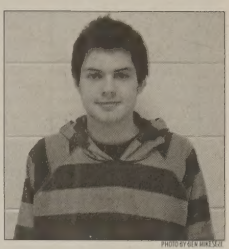


PHOTO BY BEN WIKESELL

HOMESTEAD 5, BISHOP DWENGER 3

keeping their COOL

PHOTOS BY BEN WIKESELL

Hockey team gains momentum after earning victory over Bishop Dwenger Saints

HAIDEN STEINGASS
Writer

After winning the city championship title for two consecutive years, the boys' hockey team is determined to beat the hardest competition and make its way to the state finals. As they are midseason with a record of 15-2, the team is well on its way to a successful season.

Following a crucial win against Bishop Dwenger High School, the team has proven itself to be a prominent contender.

"The hardest game so far was probably [the game] against Dwenger," Paul Lee (11) said. "We were missing a bunch of people, so we had to play a lot."

The team started its game against the Saints strongly, with two goals on its opponents, but a lack of defensive pressure allowed Bishop Dwenger to quickly catch up and tie the score.

Caught by surprise, the team suddenly fell down a point. Refusing to tolerate the Saints' lead, the boys became explosive, and rallied back to a score of 4-3 by the end of the second period.

In the third period, After bombarding the Dwenger defense with attacks, the team scored a quick goal, making the final score 5-3 and Dwenger's loss.

"It was a really hard fought game, but we kept our composure and controlled the third period," Max Dvorak (11) said.

The players acknowledged that, throughout the game, the team was able to retain a stable strategy, which ultimately led to the team's success.

"In the Dwenger game, we never panicked. We just stuck with the game plan and came out with a win," Lee said.

The previous game against Snider also resulted in a win, with a score of 3-1. The strongest performances during the game offensively came from Lee and John Van Gessal (12), who have been aiding the offense in all of their victories this season. An impressive performance from goalie Taylor Amborn (10) also helped secure the team's victory.

"We worked our power play and penalty kill really well that game, which created some momentum for us," Dvorak said.

The team's continuous success brings unlimited opportunities for their upcoming games.

"The Fort Wayne league does not have very many strong teams this year, so to prepare for the tougher games and the state tournament, we practice hard. We try to work on something new each week," Michael Haffner (12) said.

> "The team is going to do well this year, and we certainly have the talent to win the city championship again."
>
> **MICHAEL HAFFNER (12)**
> *Left Wing*

Coming up in January are games against the team's most difficult rivals: Carmel and Noblesville. These games will be chances to prove that the team can compete with some of the best competition in the state.

The team's main goals for the season are to be one of the strongest teams in the state and to earn a third consecutive city championship title. With the help of two players from different schools, Adam Limina and Van Gessal, and a strong offense and defense, the team should have no problem continuing its success and making its way to the top.

"The team is going [to do] well this year, and we certainly have the talent to win the city championship again," Haffner said.

Top: Assistant Captain Paul Lee (11) pushes the puck past a Bishop Dwenger defenseman on a fast counterattack. Above: Max Dvorak (11) and an opponent collide into the boards.

Students celebrate alternative winter sports activities

Snowboarding, skiing gain popularity among increasing percentage of school population

ALLISON OVERLANDER
Writer

Even though there are no local mountains or snow topped hills for students to ski or snowboard on, dedicated students are still getting on their gear and hitting the slopes. Students that have a passion for the intense, snowy sports spend countless hours on the road to get to a snowy slope to train on to their hearts content, and then it is back on the road to home until the next weekend away on the mountains.

Emmett Elizondo (10) explains his passion for the winter sports, and why the long drive is worth it in the end.

"I ski. I go to Holiday Valley in Ellicottville, [New York] every weekend in the winter. I coach the kids that are between the ages of twelve and fifteen that do not want to race or focus on just one event," Elizondo said. "We just do about everything on the snow [we] can. It's a six hour drive, ... [and] the drive gets tiring, but I love it. [I] wouldn't change a thing."

Emmett's little brother, Aiden Elizondo (9), has also developed a love for the winter activities.

"I ski race all over [New York] and the east, and I ski in events like Slalom, Giant Slalom, and Super Grand. The best part is how you can do whatever you want on the mountain," Aiden Elizondo said.

> "I prefer free ski for sure. I don't snowboard; never have. Competition wise, I stick to the rail jams at Mad River Mountain."
>
> **JEREMY COLLIER (11)**
> *Skier*

Popular places to go are Mad River Mountain in Bellefontaine, Ohio, Holiday Valley in Ellicottville, New York, Bittersweet in Chicago, Illinois and Boyne Mountains in Boyne Falls, Michigan. Competitors train year round for the many competitions that take place at these beautiful resorts.

Jeremy Collier (11) shares his preferences for the different competitions.

"I prefer free ski for sure. I don't snowboard; never have. Competition wise, I stick to the rail jams at Mad River Mountain," Collier said.

Though many kids hate the snow and would much rather spend their time with hot sand between their toes, these skiers and snowboarders thrive on the freezing cold and snowy, alpine atmosphere.

Skiers and snowboarders often do not get to show off their talents to their peers. However, they put in an extreme amount of effort into what they love to do, and it pays off in the end. They compete in competitions and travel every weekend. There is nothing they love more than the rush of racing down a mountain of snow, whether it is in a tube, on a snowboard or skiing; their passions vary.

"Snowboard[ing] all day, everyday. We always go to Boyne. I've never been in a snowboard competition; I just like hanging out with my friends. Nothing competitive," Hank Bassett (11) said.

Whether it is a casual hobby or a competitive way of life, skiing and snowboarding are a main part of many students. What they do is different and unique from most of Indiana's sports, which just makes it that much more interesting. The hours of devotion, fun and intense training is admirable. They have a different hobby than most students, and they enjoy every second of it.

Saturday's victory for Indiana basketball reinspires sports fans

AVERAGEJOE

BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Sports Editor

I still get the chills whenever I replay it - "The Shot" taken by Christian Watford of Indiana University as he earns his team a victory over the first-ranked team in the nation, Kentucky. This shot not only secured the victory for Indiana, but it also impacted my outlook on the value of sports.

Those who know me well understand that I don't particularly associate myself with any specific sports team. I've never religiously honored a jersey nor painted my chest for a sporting event, and sometimes I find it hard to enthuse myself for my own soccer games; however, growing up in Indiana, I've acquired a natural affection for the Indiana Hoosiers, the only team of which I consider myself to be a moderate fan.

When I was younger, I used to watch the Indiana games with my mom on the television, rooting for the team under Bobby Knight before he hated chairs and got fired. After the downfall of the program, I sort of lost interest; I became more invested in other hobbies and simply forgot to track the games. However, during my seventh grade year, a friend of mine from Canterbury, Ethan Brinkman ('13), reinspired my appreciation of the Hoosiers by taking me to a game.

I can't remember who we saw play or what the score was, but I do remember the Mother Bear's pizza we ate before the game, the pre-game announcement of Chuck Crab's deep voice booming, "Indiana University welcomes you to the Assembly Hall," and the crazed fans running around outside after the game. I was allowed to briefly experience some of the traditions associated with Indiana basketball, and I felt like for its fans, Indiana basketball maybe held something greater than entertainment.

Last year, Brinkman took me to watch the team play the University of Michigan, which boasted a solid team at the time. Following former coach Kevin Sampson's trouble with recruiting violations four years ago, the Indiana basketball program was left in a desolate state. Indiana was not anticipated to do well in the game.

From the tip off, Indiana surprised the spectators. The team remained in contention with Michigan for much of the game, until it impossibly began to pull away. The team held its lead to upset the Wolverines. I was amazed by what appeared to be the return of Indiana basketball, and I changed from a spectator into what I like to call, "a fan."

Two years later, I found myself nearly trembling with excitement preceding Indiana's game against Kentucky. For the night of the game, I went over to a friend's house. I was nearly late, so I drove ridiculous speeds - sorry, Mom, I promise I was safe - to reach his house in time for tip-off.

The game began, and from the television set, I could tell that Assembly Hall was insane. The fans of Indiana, a team that was undefeated at the time, were mildly confident that the Hoosiers could win; thus, they rocked Assembly Hall with endless cheers and ruthlessly bantered at the caterpillar that connects Anthony Davis's eyebrows. I texted Brinkman, who was, per usual, at the game, who said he had never felt the stadium like this; his family has had season tickets for seven seasons now.

For the first half, Indiana remained in contention with Kentucky. After every shot that left a Hoosier's hand, the crowd held its breath, and let out enormous screams of praise when a shot went in. On defense, the crowd was impossibly loud. By the second half, the team pulled away from Kentucky - so much so that my friends and I opted to leave for the Homestead basketball game.

As I'm listening to the game in my car, I was shocked to listen as Kentucky fought back. I pulled into my friends drive way, but remained rooted to my car seat - I had to know what was happening. At this time, Indiana was down by two with only around three seconds left. A Kentucky player was at the line; he missed one free throw, he made the other.

The announcer indicated that Christian Watford inbounded the pass to Verdell Jones III, who took the ball up the court. I heard the announcer etch out, "Three - two - wah," followed complete silence. And then, my speakers exploded with the screams of Indiana fans. I heard the announcer scream in disbelief, "Watford hit the three; IU wins," and I may or may not have started screaming in my car. I had never felt so excited for a sporting event in my life.

However, while I was excited, the game meant much more for Brinkman, and many of the other fans at Assembly Hall that day. Indiana defied all odds to topple the number one team in the nation. A hustling group of players, who few others than devoted fans believed in, beat a team that some consider to have the most talent.

Brinkman, along with other fans, sat through several lousy seasons until this return of the prestigious Indiana basketball program. He religiously follows the team's status, watches every game in person or on television, and considers the basketball team a factor in his reasoning to attend Indiana University as a student.

For Brinkman, this game became less about a scoreboard and more about a love for a team. Through the years, Indiana basketball became a part of him. After the game, when he and I were texting, he became overwhelmed.

"I can't breath," Brinkman said.

"I can't either - I think I might cry" I jokingly replied.

For some, sports are more than just a game.

"I just did," Brinkman said.

PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Trevor Osborn (11) moves his way down the court during the victorious game with Concordia which brought a win in the last moments on the clock.

a learning EXPERIENCE

Boys' basketball continues undefeated streak, learns from past games

BY TYLER KOTESKEY
Writer

The boys' varsity basketball team began its season off with an undefeated record of 3-0 after breath-taking wins against Huntington North, Merrillville and Concordia.

In its opening game on the road over Thanksgiving Break, the team began with a dominant 85-71 victory over the Vikings. Nick Gamble (11) scored twenty points, and Zach Terrell (12) added seventeen points in a successful opener. Terrell left the team last year to focus on football but decided to return this year, and has been scoring well. Gamble has contributed greatly to the team's score as well.

"We've done pretty [well] so far, but we still have a lot to learn and a lot to improve on," Gamble said.

Following the Huntington North game, the boys played their first home game against the Merrillville Pirates. Last season, Merrillville dominated the team, winning by twenty points. However, the Spartans came back seeking revenge, despite the fact that their opponent was ranked number three in Class 4A.

This year, even though Merrillville never completely dominated the game like they did last season, the game did not look promising for the Spartans for most of the time.

"We felt like we were the better team, but we dug ourselves a hole when we started missing shots," Gamble said.

With one minute left in the game, the team trailed Merrillville by seven points. However, after a three-point play by Gamble and a three pointer by Terrell, the team was only down by one point with twenty-two seconds to go.

The boys' defense came up big by preventing the Pirates from throwing the ball into play. Then, Terrell received the ball from out-of-bounds and scored from short range while being fouled.

The defense continued to thrive from then on, and the team escaped with a 64-56 victory.

"It was a game that we all knew we could win and one that we didn't want to let slip away," Terrell said. "It was a tremendous team effort and one that we showed a lot of heart in winning."

Terrell finished with twenty-six points, and Gamble added fourteen.

"That was one of the most exciting games I've ever been a part of," Gamble said. "Even when we got down, guys continued to make plays."

In the last minute of the game, the team scored fifteen points.

"It was exciting," Daymon Osborn (12) said. "Definitely a hard fought win that took a total team effort."

Their next home game was equally as exciting because it came down to the wire yet again. A complete team effort was needed to defeat the Concordia Cadets as well, who had defeated the Spartans last year in five overtime periods.

Late in the fourth quarter, the Cadets brought the score up to a tied 48. It appeared as though another overtime thriller was inevitable. However, with four seconds let, Trevor Osborn (11) shot the ball off of the backboard and in the basket, pulling off another last minute victory of 50-48.

Trevor Osborn finished with sixteen points and Gamble added fifteen.

Despite holding an undefeated record, many on the team acknowledge that there are some things they need to work on.

"We have to have a better rhythm offensively, but, most of all, we need to improve our defense if we want to be successful," Gamble said.

In the game against Merrillville, the boys struggled to keep the Pirates from continuing to get slam dunks and explosive plays, but the defense was effective in the last minute of the game. This strong defense propelled them to score fifteen points.

"Our toughest competition is always the next game. No one team in particular really stands out [as a threat]," Terrell said.

The team now faces Warsaw, followed by Southside and Bishop Dwenger. The boys are hoping to continue their success and try to win their first Sectional Championship since 2002.

TOP GAMES TO WATCH THIS SEASON:

DEC. 16 AT CARROLL | JAN. 24 AT WAYNE | FEB. 9 NORWELL AT HOME | FEB. 21 AT NORTHROP

ATHLETES' FOOD

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	SNACK
ZACH McFARLAND (11) *basketball*	- glass of Orange Juice - one banana nut muffin	- one slice of cheese pizza - french fries - Gatorade	- One plate of Pasta with Meat sauce - Milk	- granola bar - PB&J sandwich
MADIE ZIRZOW (12) *diving*	- Banana - Yogurt - Granola	- School Hot Lunch - Milk	- Pasta - Chicken - Salad - Milk	- Anything but pop or fried food
NICK LITCHIN (11) *swimming*	- meat sandwich - beef jerky - blueberry bread - mini doughnuts - fruit - cookie - orange juice	- two slices of pizza - fruit - breadsticks - cookies - milk	- pasta - meat sandwich - bread - salad w/ dressing - fruit - rice - milk	- crackers - nuts - fruit
CALEB GARDNER (10) *wrestling*	*gaining weight*: - 4 eggs - 4 Ego waffles - 2 granola bars - 2 glasses of orange juice *making weight*: - 4 eggs - glass of orange juice	- 2 chicken sandwiches - french fries - 2 Gatorades - milk - Gatorade	- 2 packets of Ramen noodles - chicken alfredo - salad with ranch - milk - 2 packets of Ramen noodles	- water - granola bars
NATALIE GIBBLE (10) *swimming*	- Bagel w/ cream cheese - Go-gurt - Banana - Chocolate milk - Cucumber	- Mac-n-cheese - cookies - apple - milk	- chicken - broccoli - rice - milk	- clif bar - strawberry applesauce - granola - grapes
CARMEN LOWE (12) *basketball*	- banana	- sandwich - salad - gatorade	- Subway or pasta - salad - milk	

STUDENT PHOTOS BY BEN MARSELL, FOOD PHOTOS FROM FLICKR.COM

"THE BEST GIFT CAME FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. WE WERE UPSTAIRS AND A NOISE CAME FROM THE BASEMENT. EVERYONE WAS CONCERNED BUT WHEN WE WENT DOWSTAIRS, **THERE WAS A TRAINSET FROM SANTA SET UP AND RUNNING.** SINCE IT WAS FROM SANTA IT WAS A REALLY COOL GIFT AT THAT AGE."
- Bekki Vail, Science Teacher

"I HAVE A NEW BABY COUSIN AND HAVING A BABY AROUND DURING CHRISTMAS TIME **WILL BRING EXTRA JOY AND LOVE TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON.**"
- Kyle O'Brien (12)

"MY FAVORITE MEMORY WAS **THE YEAR WHEN ALL I GOT WAS EIGHT $2 BILLS.** THAT WAS PROBABLY THE WORST HANUKKAH EVER."
- Hanita Epstein (11)

home for the HOLIDAYS

"WHEN I WAS 5 YEARS OLD MY SIBLINGS AND I FOUND A HUGE BOX BEHIND THE COUCH ON CHRISTMAS MORNING. **SANTA DELIVERED US A TRAMPOLINE AND WE WOULD HAVE NEVER GUESSED HOW MUCH USE AND FUN WE WOULD HAVE FROM IT.**"
- Kacie Taivalkoski (11)

"GETTING MY DOG JERRY WAS THE BEST PRESENT. MY MOM WRAPPED UP A FOOD AND WATER BOWL- ONE FOR MY SISTER AND ONE FOR ME TO OPEN. SHE PICKED HIM OUT A FEW DAYS LATER AND BROUGHT HIM HOME ON MY BIRTHDAY (JAN 4)."
- Andrew Crawford (11)

"SOMETHING THAT MY FAMILY ALWAYS USED TO DO AS A CHRISTMAS TRADITION WHILE I WAS GROWING UP WAS **PAINT OUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENTS.** IT'S ALWAYS FUN TO GAZE UPON YOUR PURPLE SNOWMAN AND BLACKBEARD SANTA CLAUS THAT YOU MADE BACK IN 1998."
- Kaleb Schlatter (11)

"MY FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION IS OUR FAMILY CHANUKAH PARTY AT MY BUBBE'S (GRANDMA) HOUSE. **THAT IS WHAT I AM USED TO AND I WOULDN'T WANT IT ANY OTHER WAY.**"
-Elana Merritt (12)

"WE LIKE **DECORATING THE HOUSE, SETTING UP THE TREE, AND SHOPPING FOR OTHERS A LOT MORE THAN WE USED TO.** HOWEVER, WE LOVE THE SIMPLE THINGS OF WINTER LIKE ICE-SKATING AND CHRISTMAS COOKIES."
- Anna and Vanessa Berghoff (10)

"MY FAVORITE MEMORY WAS **WAKING EVERYONE UP AT 6 AM ON CHRISTMAS MORNING** BECAUSE I WANTED TO OPEN PRESENTS."
- Kate Troutman (11)

"HOLIDAYS ARE NEVER MORE WONDERFUL **THAN WHEN YOU GET TO EXPERIENCE THEM THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD.**"
- Susan Summers, Social Studies Teacher

the SPARTANA

NEWS After 30 years of teaching, government teacher Keith Potter campaigns for the position of Indiana State Representative. **1**

OPINION As Republican candidates compete for the presidential nomination, the failures of some highlight the absurdity of politics. **3**

LIFE A new year brings innovation in culture. Here's what to expect in fashion, movies, and music for the unfolding 2012. **5**

SPORTS Intramural basketball season kicks off, which provides intense competition and rivalries amongst students. **7**

FEATURE Students are able to live the NFL experience due to the creation of the Epicenter of Awesome in Indianapolis. **8**

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Friday, February 3, 2012 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

In loving memory of

alex moran

1991-2012

He was everything to me; my best friend, my love. We had been through everything together and he always made me smile no matter how bad my day was. Alex, I miss you like no one could ever imagine and I will love you forever.

MANDY PICK

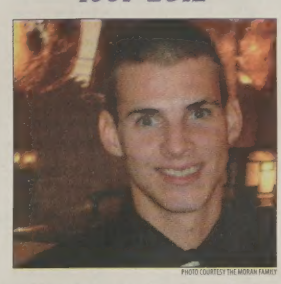


PHOTO COURTESY THE MORAN FAMILY

Since that first day of school when we were playing with the blocks instead of reading, I knew he was a true friend. Alex really would do anything to get anyone in a good mood. I know you're watching over us, Bubby. I love you.

SETH COATE

As I slowly stepped out the elevator of Lutheran Hospital, I was overwhelmed by what I saw. Masses of grief-stricken friends and family members lined both sides of the hallway outside the hospital room of Alex Moran ('09). They stood somber and teary-eyed, waiting to say good-bye to a loved one who was leaving them in an instant.

On Friday, Jan. 6, I learned that Alex, the brother of Sydney Moran (11), a friend of mine since elementary school, had been rushed to the hospital after experiencing trouble breathing. While I was startled, I figured the frightening situation would quickly diffuse. Growing up with the Moran family, I had the fortune to get to know Alex. He was an excited, energetic boy who deeply cared for his family. I was sure he would recover quickly. I was wrong.

While on the way to the hospital, Alex stopped breathing. After 20 minutes passed, the doctors were able to restart his heart; however, the lack of oxygen to his brain required a medically-induced coma. Over the next two days, conditions worsened. On Monday, Jan. 9, when the doctors attempted to wake Alex from the coma, he failed to regain consciousness. The medical professionals concluded that he was brain-dead and regretfully informed the family it was time to say their good-byes.

{Joe Laughlin continues reflection of Alex Moran, Page 2}

Daniels passes 'Right to Work'

Bill receives doubt as to benefit of teachers

By Megan Cater
Writer

The newly-enacted "Right to Work" Bill has received attention throughout the state and will affect people in a variety of workplace environments, but speculation exists over the bill's effect on teachers' unions.

"Right to Work" means "of or pertaining to the right of workers to gain or keep employment whether or not they belong to a labor union." This simple definition has caused many conflicts in company and employee relations. The debate is over whether each member of a Union should have to pay for the Union dues.

"It creates a difficult atmosphere among those working under contract to be collegial and supportive of each other."

MIKE SCHMID
Art Teacher

By being part of a Union, employees reap benefits and job protection. A Union is essentially a group of workers that come together to make decisions about the conditions of their work. Members of a Union can impact different aspects of their job including wages, benefits, work hours and health and safety related issues in the workplace. Many large corporations have a Union because there are many workers. For example, GM has a Union because of its expansive production line. Even though some workers do not pay Union dues, they

SEE 'BILL,' PAGE 2

Government teacher runs for political office

Keith Potter campaigns as Republican candidate for Indiana State Representative

By Dana Hart
Copy Editor

After teaching U.S. government for thirty years, Keith Potter has plans that come nowhere close to retirement – campaigning for Indiana State Representative.

Potter's experience teaching U.S. government and his leading the annual "We the People" team make him not only an expert on the political process, but well in tune with the opinions of a new generation of voters.

"For the past thirty years I have been meeting with young people as a teacher. I feel I have a good understanding of what young people care about," Potter said. "Most candidates do not have exposure to young people on a regular basis, so they don't understand where young people are coming from."

Potter's colleagues are certain of his unselfish reasons for pursuing government office.

"Very few teachers know their subject as well as Keith knows government," Tom Maher, U.S. history teacher and social studies supervisor, said. "He is not in [the campaign] for the personal gain."

The Indiana General Assembly, in which the state representatives are included, is a citizens' assembly, meaning that the members of the assembly have full-time jobs outside of their government offices. As mandated by the Constitution of 1816, from December to March, the Indiana General Assembly was to meet annually; however, the Constitution of 1851 called for a session every other year. In the 1970s, an amendment stating that the general assembly would again meet annually was added to the Constitution of 1851.

Indiana's House of Representatives has 100 members; every two years, the 100 districts elect one person to represent them in the Indiana Congress. Citizens of both Aboite and Whitley County make up Indiana's 83rd district, of which Potter is a candidate. Presently, his opponent is Kathy Heuer, current 83rd district representative. The Indiana House of Representatives make imperative and numerous decisions that deal with education, agriculture and taxes. With the Indiana primary fast approaching, May 8, Potter is engrossed in his campaign, vying to win the public's approval and to establish himself as the most upright candidate.

SEE 'POTTER,' PAGE 2

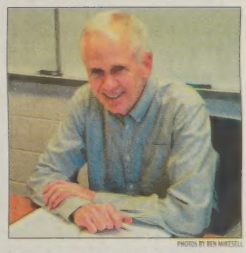


PHOTO BY BEN MIESELL

Potter has been a teacher in SACS for 30 years.

District combats cyber bullying

By Tori Barnard
News Editor

The School Board recently unanimously voted to update the district bullying policy to address cyber bullying.

This change occurred after the School Board received a recommendation from the Anti-Bullying Task Force, a parent-led group, to be clearer in the language of the policy to involve bullying with the use of electronics, or cyber bullying. This change also coincides with the adoption of the 1:1 computer program at the middle school level, in which every middle school student received a laptop for classroom use this year.

In addition to bullying that occurs on school grounds, at a school activity, traveling to a school function or using school property, the policy now specifies that students are in violation of the bullying policy if the bullying occurs "when using data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system or computer network of the school district or when the behavior has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly educational environment of the school."

In terms of school interference when bullying occurs outside of school, the key is the disruption of education.

SEE 'BULLYING,' PAGE 2

PHOTO BY BEN MIESELL

District develops committee to better diversity awareness

By Laura Zeng
Copy Editor

Southwest Allen County Schools recently developed the Diversity Committee, a board that was created in response to a report on the district by Dr. Daryl Yost, the Director of Certified Technology Park at the Northeast Indiana Innovation Center. The Diversity Committee had its second meeting Jan. 23 and discussed SACS's diversity issues and possible solutions to these issues.

According to Anita Gross, a SACS social worker and the head of the Diversity Committee, the committee is still developing ideas and will be working over the next 12 to 18 months to "study the issues of diversity in the SACS school community and develop recommendations to address diversity in a manner that will improve the educational environment for all students, staff and parents."

The committee is comprised of SACS students, parents, faculty, staff and administrators and meets about once a month. Representatives from Homestead include French teacher Meg Underwood, history teacher Jim Schmidt and students Ariana Martinez (12), Olivia Miller (11), Dashaen Jordan (10), Jim Nelson (11), Colton Shaffer (11) and Hanita Epstein (11).

The meeting on Jan. 23 focused mainly on increasing differences in socioeconomic status and staff diversity. The main concern was helping students from outside districts adapt to SACS's academic rigor as well as bridging the opportunity gap between students with different economic circumstances by possibly offering free transportation and summer tutoring services. Other issues discussed included academic diversity, racial diversity and sexual orientation diversity.

In the future, the Diversity Committee would like to survey middle school and high school students in focus groups, talk to parents about diversity and increase diversity-focused staff training. The committee also plans on continuing to focus on character building activities during elementary school.

"We need to teach people to practice equality, practice diversity and embrace all walks of life," Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at IPFW Kenneth Christmon said at the meeting. "Teaching diversity is teaching people to play well together."

SEE 'COMMITTEE,' PAGE 2

BRIEFS

GAME NIGHT AT THE Y
The SADD/NAND groups will be hosting a Game Night at the Jefferson YMCA from 9-11 PM tonight. Activities will include ping-pong, volleyball, video games, and more. Food will be provided free of charge.

VARIETY SHOW AUDITION
Variety Show auditions are to be held from 3-5 PM on Tuesday, Jan. 14 and Wednesday, Jan. 15. If interested in participating, sign-up sheets for audition slots will be available during all lunches starting Monday, Feb. 6. All that are auditioning are required to have a one-minute performance prepared for the audition.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP
For seniors interested in the E.H. Kilbourne Scholarship, applications are due to Student Services by noon, Monday, Feb. 6. This scholarship accounts for students with demonstrated financial need. If selected, an applicant is guaranteed to receive financial assistance.

SECTIONAL TICKETS
Sectional tickets for the girls' basketball team are currently on sale at the Athletic Office. Ten dollars will cover admittance into all the sectional games. Get tickets soon and be ready to support the Lady Spartans on an exciting post-season run.

IN THIS ISSUE

'Cabaret Night,' Page 2

Show Choir hosted their annual "Cabaret Night" last Friday night to raise funds for the choral department through their first public performance and several auctions.. Other performers included an a capella group and relatives of the show choir.

PHOTO BY ASHLEY BILLINGSLEY

▶▶ MORAN CONTINUED FROM 1

I continued walking into the waiting area, numb with disbelief at the situation that had transpired in three days. I noticed Seth Coate (11), a close family friend of the Morans, sitting to my left and sat down next to him. He put his arm around me but kept his eyes on the floor.

"I can't believe it," Coate said. "I just can't believe it."

It was hard to comprehend how someone so full of life could leave us so quickly. Whenever I saw him at the Moran household, he was constantly moving, never waiting in one place for dullness to set in. He was eager to experience excitement in any situation he came across.

"He was always walking around, going from one room to the next," Eric Schmidt ('09), close friend, said in reflection a week after the funeral. "He was always on the move."

As I sat next to Coate, head in my hands, I simply observed the conversations around me. While some mourned for Alex and his family, most uttered stories of Alex's crazy antics. The memories highlighted Alex's affinity for fireworks, his playful fighting with friends and his love for his dog, Bella. Most of all, the stories depicted Alex's ability to make those around him smile. Even at a time of mourning, the memories of Alex were told through lips although glistening with tears, inevitably formed into smiles.

While his ability to entertain made others enjoy his presence, his genuine compassion for others made him loved. Regardless of who he was with, Alex made life enjoyable for those around him.

"He had such a kind heart," Joellen Moran, his mother, said a few weeks after the funeral, "He taught us to treat everyone the same, because you aren't better than any one else."

I looked down the crowded hallway again, and was surprised not to see Mandy Pick ('09), his girlfriend, in the crowd. Coate informed me that Pick was stationed at the bedside of Alex, holding his hand.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Joellen, Callie and Sydney Moran stand with their dog, Bella, in front of a sign made by close friends and family.

"He meant everything to me. He was my best friend and my sidekick," Pick said last week.

As I saw Sydney emerge from the crowd, puffy-eyed yet altogether composed, I thought of how deeply Alex cared for his family and how much he meant to them.

On Aug. 15, 2008, Alex's father, John, passed away after an unexpected heart attack due to congenital heart disease. From this point forward, Alex stepped into the role as man-of-the-house. He was protective of his mother and sisters and made sure they were safe. It was clear how much he cared for his family simply by being in the same room as Alex and his mother and sisters. Two weeks after his passing, his sisters acknowledge the impact he has had on their lives by the lessons he taught them.

"There is a time to have fun and a time to be serious," Sydney said. "But above all else, he taught me that family is always first."

Two weeks after Alex passed, Joellen also told me that the family found solace as they imagined Alex reunited with his father, making him laugh as he did for so many others.

As Sydney approached, she gave me the opportunity to visit Alex and Joellen in the hospital room. Though I had previously contained myself, upon entering the room, I looked at Alex, I looked at Joellen, and I collapsed into her arms.

I thought of the fun-loving boy I had once watched chase his dog, wrestle his sisters, and light off his beloved fireworks. I thought of the boy who comforted his sisters and protected his mother.

I murmured something of condolence to Joellen, and as she somehow consoled me, she sighed and cracked a slight grin.

"Oh, crazy Alex," Moran said.

▶▶ POTTER CONTINUED FROM 1

"I plan to go out into the district and meet with people so [the people] get to know me," Potter said. "Young people should know that they can register to vote as long as they are 18 on or before November 6, 2012."

Potter's fellow faculty members are supportive of his campaign.

"I have known Mr. Potter for about 23 years. I feel that Mr. Potter is a very honest individual who, if elected, would serve the people of the 83rd district very well," Tim Decker, teacher of both U.S. government and psychology, said. "One of the things I like about him is that he is a very well informed individual on the issues that currently face the constituents of the district. I would love to see him win the seat in the November election."

Potter's students also acknowledge his qualifications for office.

"I know that Mr. Potter has been a member of the Aboite Township Board for several years, so I'm sure he will be extremely well qualified for the position," Varsha Venkat (12), member of the 2010 We The People Team, said.

Potter's character as both a person and a politician stands makes him an ideal candidate.

"Those of us who know Keith outside of school know that he has a great sense of humor and that he is fun to be around. He is a typical Midwestern gentleman, calm, polite, even-tempered and honest, and he respects the same qualities in others," said Maher.

In a year of political commotion, Potter is determined to emerge triumphant. For more information about Potter's campaign, visit www.keithpotter4rep.com.

Annual show choir fundraiser adopts family-central theme

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Co-Editor

Show Choirs hosted their annual Cabaret Night last Friday. The event is a showcase and a fundraiser for the choral department and has become a traditional event to kick off competition season.

All of the money from the evening's auctions and raffles go toward the choral department. Cabaret Night provides show choirs Elite and Class Royale and back-up band Anonymous Blue (AB) the opportunity to display their shows in front of an audience before competition season.

"Most of the parents said this year's was the best first performance they had seen, so we're looking forward to a fun and competitive competition season this year," Sahand Emamian (12) said.

Unlike competitions, Cabaret Night is a more relaxed environment for the choirs to perform, and the evening provides an opportunity to work out any problems with the show. Cabaret Night began with a silent auction, offering items like a Komets Basket, a Super Bowl Basket, a YMCA membership, a Slumber Party Package and a variety of food items.

Many changes were made to this year's event including dinner catered by Ziano's rather than merely hord'oeuvres. Furthermore, changes were made to the length of the live auction and the types of entertainment. This year's biggest change was the theme, "All in the Family." Instead of hiring outside acts, relatives of show choir and AB members performed, including performances by the Bixlers, the Beauchamps, the Lows and Doug Hartle.

"We have enough talent within that we didn't need to pay somebody from the outside to come in," event chairperson and Spanish teacher Lisa Yde said.

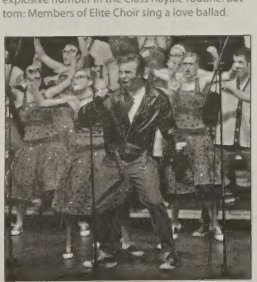
After the silent auction, the entertainment began with the Chamber Ensemble, a group of students involved in the music department singing a cappella, which was founded last year.

The live auction, which occurred between performances, featured only four items this year, making the auction significantly shorter than last year's. Items auctioned off included a spring break trip to Las Vegas, a senior parking spot and two prom packages, with all proceeds going toward the choral department.

Students involved in the show choir program are optimistic about the approaching competition season.

"We have a lot to live up to, what with following last year's AB and show choir performances, but if we continue to improve at the rate we are, I have high hopes for the competition season," Anonymous Blues member Adam Breneman (11) said.

Below: Derek Gulley (12) performs a solo in an explosive number in the Class Royale routine. Bottom: Members of Elite Choir sing a love ballad.



PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

▶▶ BULLYING CONTINUED FROM 1

"If something disrupts education, we can get involved," Anita Gross, school social worker said. "If [the bullying] comes into school, we can get involved."

There are no formal guidelines for dealing with violators of the bully policy, and every instance of bullying is handled on a case by case basis.

"Every situation is different," Gross said. "Our goal is to look at the prevention side of bullying."

If the bullying causes no educational disruption, the parents are responsible for handling the situation.

"If we are made aware of a concern, we can look into it; however, most cases are ultimately up to parents to monitor and resolve," Gross said.

If a parent approaches the school with a concern about bullying their student experiences online outside of school, the district can look into the situation but can't punish the bully until it interferes with school or comes into the school.

"We can't police the internet," assistant principal Steve Lake said. "We can try to be proactive and prevent the bullying from occurring at school, but we cannot punish students for everything they do online."

Students recognize the presence of cyber bullying in their daily lives.

"SACS definitely has a cyber bullying problem; there is probably not a day where I do not see someone, somewhere on Facebook getting bullied in one way or another," Aaron Bowser (11) said.

"I have been cyber bullied, and I believe almost everyone has in this day and age."

▶▶ COMMITTEE CONTINUED FROM 1

Yost studied SACS in 2010 and formalized a report about the situation. He gave the district a rating of five apples, basing his assessment on 120 group meetings and personal interviews with parents, teachers and SACS employees. His review of the district was very positive, commending the school district on its safe environment and academic excellence but advising the district to focus more on diversity awareness.

"Diversity is desirable, but unprepared-for diversity is a recipe for discontentment, strife and failure," Yost writes in his report. "SACS must seize the opportunity to be a pacesetter in diversity awareness and appreciation."

Yost recommends focusing on all elements of diversity including "race [and] ethnicity, socio-economic [sic] levels, gender (and gender preferences), culture [and] religion and alternative life styles [sic]."

Yost made four recommendations to the district: increase learner-focused learning, adapt to changing demographics, monitor the ALPHA program and improve internal and external communications. Yost's full evaluation of Southwest Allen County Schools can be found on the SACS web page.

The next Diversity Committee meeting will be on Feb. 27 at 4 PM at the SACS administration building.

▶▶ BILL CONTINUED FROM 1

still receive the same benefits and protection of the people that do pay the dues.

"The language of the legislation that is being proposed as I understand it, would put all workers in a position similar to what teachers have been operating under for the past 40 plus years," Mike Schmid, art teacher, said. "It creates a difficult atmosphere among those working under contract to be collegial and supportive of each other. It is specifically designed to create this type of atmosphere."

This bill could change other workplaces, but regarding the SACS environment, there will be little immediate change. The type of Union that the "Right to Work" Bill is promoting is already in effect. Currently, teachers can select to be in the Teachers' Union. Membership has grown this year with about 54 percent attendance of teachers.

Some say that the bill would not really change anything for SACS teachers. "We already have the right to work here," Jon Baker, history teacher, said. "If they try to destroy the Union as a whole, it would impact teachers. As long as there is trust and respect between everyone there won't be a problem. But the question is- Does that exist?"

The big controversy over RTW is whether people should be allowed in the Union and receive the benefits even if they do not pay the dues.

"By only some people paying the cost of negotiating, the individuals paying the dues pay higher in order to cover the expenses of those who get the free ride," Schmid said. "In a sense, by being a non-member, individuals get paid more in the short run, but cause the long term wages to decline."

If the "Right to Work" Bill is passed, it would still affect teachers in some way.

"Teachers associate Right to Work with future of education and future of job security," Baker said. "I think what we have with teachers being able to select to be in the Union works well."

The "Right to Work" Bill is scheduled to be voted on in the State House. The results of this vote will decide whether or not Indiana is a "Right to Work" state. Indiana State Democrat House Members are proposing this issue to a referendum, which would allow the general public to voice their opinion. Republican House Members hope to have a vote in the House soon.

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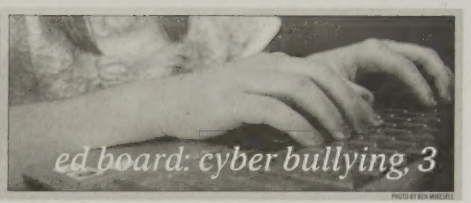


Gender stereotypes during playtime detract from fun

By Colton Shaffer
Writer

It can't be denied: gender stereotyping is a serious issue. Furthermore, when children are involved, gender stereotyping and the social constraints that accompany it can easily suppress the individuality of a child and foster closed-mindedness. However, those protesting the Lego Friends line have blown the idea of gender stereotyping way out of proportion. In an effort to draw in the girl market, Lego has released a new line called Lego Friends, full of pastels, cute animals, baked goods and redesigned Lego characters. While many people see this as the perfect opportunity to point the finger at Lego for fostering stereotypes, they're overlooking the good this line can do for all children, regardless of gender.

The simple truth it this: Lego Friends is not some line dreamed up by sexist, out-of-touch men in a board room. The new line is designed specifically to appeal to what the average young girl wants to play with. Lego Friends is the result of four years of research, design and testing into what girls between the ages of three and five actually want. When it was found that girls didn't care for the iconic, yellow bucket-headed, Lego characters, Lego made them slightly larger and more appealing and relatable to the intended market. When it was found that girls prefer to play while building, as opposed to boys who generally finish the entire model before playing, Lego included some premade structures to appeal to those tastes.

> "While many people see this as the perfect opportunity to point the finger at Lego for fostering stereotypes, they're overlooking the good this line can do for all children, regardless of gender."
>
> **COLTON SHAFFER**

What some call reinforcing stereotypes is, in actuality, a great way to appeal to the average "princess phase" that many young girls go through. Historically, Lego has produced only products aimed at boys: ninjas, Indiana Jones, Star Wars, Pirates of the Caribbean, cops, firemen, etc. Never once have any of those toys been ridiculed for reinforcing a male stereotype. What Lego has done is actually admirable. Now, even if a little girl wants to play with ninjas or a little boy wants to take his kitten to the vet, all kids, regardless of gender, have a Lego toy that possibly suits their interests. For too long, children who are more interested in ponies than warfare have been left out by the Lego company. Legos offer a unique playtime experience that teaches patience, along with spatial, mathematical and fine motor skills. Any good parent wouldn't be that upset if their little girl or boy wants to play with these toys and learn these skills.

As any parent will say, kids know what they want. If young boys are more interested in playing with dolls, they'll say it. If little girls are more interested in playing with pirates, they'll let everyone know. Instead of focusing on the intended market of the toy, maybe, for once, people should understand that each child is different. Each child is capable of making their own decisions when it comes to playtime, because, when it gets right down to it, playtime, to kids, isn't about gender roles and stereotypes. Playtime is about learning patience, motor skills and the ability to play well with others; most of all, it's just about having fun.

PHOTO FROM FLICKER.COM

rock BOTTOM

The Conservative Crisis: Elephants have forgotten what it's like to live life on the edge

By Clair Pranger
Opinion Co-Editor

With less than a year before the next presidential election, the Republican Party has been having a grand time trying to discern who will receive their nomination. But with the revolving door of candidates continuously jockeying for position and the relentless media attention, the race has taken on a ridiculous and comical air.

As it stands, the four candidates vying for top dog are as follows: Mitt Romney, Ron Paul, Newt Gingrich and Rick Santorum. Their status, it seems, changes on an hourly basis. Other candidates that have since dropped out include: Michele Bachmann, Jon Huntsman, Rick Perry and Herman Cain.

Despite winning the New Hampshire Primary, Romney hasn't in any sense secured the nomination. He only became the current front-runner by a dangerously thin margin of eight votes over Santorum in Iowa, which has since been recounted and come up with a new outcome: Santorum actually won with 34 more votes than Romney. He had a more comfortable win in New Hampshire, securing 39 percent of the vote, but that primary has historically been more symbolic in its completion than any indication of future success.

The South Carolina primary has much more political sway, because that state has picked the winner of every GOP nomination fight since 1980. And indeed, Romney did not come out on top.

Newt Gingrich secured the win there with 40.4 percent of the vote, heightening the contention of the candidates even more and making some less sure as to who will eventually become the nominee.

Though a presidential race always generates a significant amount of hype from the general public and becomes a continual topic for discussion in every national news provider, the extent to which the Republicans are milking the system is laughable. With all the concern about who will take the nomination, their policies take a back seat, and it becomes no more than a popularity contest. Which, in a sense, is what any democratic election boils down to.

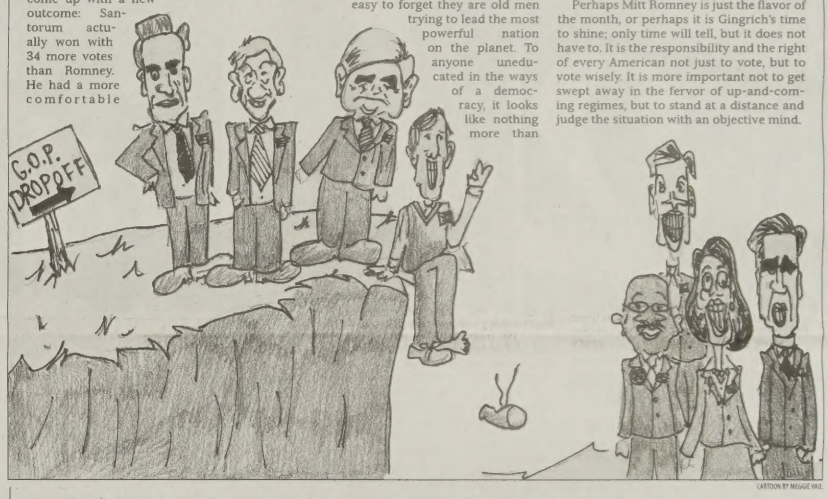
Amidst their endless squabbling, it is easy to forget they are old men trying to lead the most powerful nation on the planet. To anyone uneducated in the ways of a democracy, it looks like nothing more than six men desperately trying to relive their high school years by becoming the most popular and keeping anyone else off their territory. The struggle has become so pathetic that it would not be surprising if they resorted to urinating on states' ballots to claim them as their own.

This pathetically desperate struggle is not, however, their fault. It is the continuous attention from the media and the general public that is encouraging them to act as racehorses desperate to win the grand prize.

It is up to the average citizen to never forget the real reason he is voting. He is not to get lost in the fake smile of a candidate who will do anything for a vote, but to do what he thinks is best for his country. Let that always weigh on the conscious of every American who steps up to the ballot box.

Any popularly elected official is powerless without the voting mass, therefore that voting mass has more power than it realizes. It is once again time to use that power to show these promenading, pompous showpieces who is really in control.

Perhaps Mitt Romney is just the flavor of the month, or perhaps it is Gingrich's time to shine; only time will tell, but it does not have to. It is the responsibility and the right of every American not just to vote, but to vote wisely. It is more important not to get swept away in the fervor of up-and-coming regimes, but to stand at a distance and judge the situation with an objective mind.



CARTOON BY MEGGIE HILL

Social networking rules exemplify administrative overreach

To most Midwest middle-class students born on the brink of the digital age and stuck into the humdrum and monotony of a suburban lifestyle, the internet has become a sort of last frontier, an alternate dimension where anyone can become invincible and immortal with little to no regard for adverse consequences. And to a generation that is relentlessly subjected to societal trends favouring its safety over its freedom and independence (i.e. child tracking devices, less exposure to controversial media, more stringent curfews and teenage driving laws), the notion of taking away the one freedom left for them to inherit is simply appalling. So when SACS board members unanimously voted to adopt an ambiguously written cyber-bullying clause to add to the bullying policy, students responded with sceptical disapproval.

The policy makes "verbal or written communications" that "[have] the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly educational environment of the school" punishable by whatever means necessary determined by the administration.

To some students, the thought of administrators–most of whom still referred to any and all social networking sites as "Spacebook" and "Myface" until accidentally tricking themselves into seeing the Social Network in late 2010 because Disney's Secretariat was sold out–making decisions for a more technologically adept and socially adapted group of sub-citizens is unjustified and illogical. And while the addition to the policy may be saturated with inconclusive statements that can be bent to fit any conceivable definition of bullying, the schools means of enforcing it are almost so laughable that it does not even seem to matter.

People often get so caught up in their own fear of the system that they forget that school counselors and administrators are not, in fact, trained CIA agents. Because the truth is, regardless of what your parents and teachers may tell you, once you delete a regrettable Facebook status or tweet that has yet to be reported or printed off as bona fide proof, it is pretty much gone for good. Bullying problems are dealt with by discipline officers, not computer programmers with the magic key to the recycling bin of the internet where everything you have ever posted sits taking up precious memory that could instead be used for Kim Kardashian's priceless, witty twitter updates.

So even though the administration has given itself omnipotence over students' actions concerning the internet, it has yet to realize that it has virtually no ability to assert its prowess.

The Ed Board

Ryan Boylan *Joe Laughlin*
Mary Distler *Connor O'Hara*
Joe Janizek *Clair Pranger*

{The Bottom Line} *The administration's cyberbullying countermeasures overstep authority by interfering with students' personal lives.*

Bill to detain prisoners necessary for national defense

By Sarah Bade
Writer

When the question of national security is involved, many citizens say to do whatever it takes to in order to protect the nation. However, when "whatever it takes" involves taking away natural rights, then the question becomes whether to protect the nation or someone's rights. This question occurred when President Obama authorized the defense bill.

The defense bill allowed for the indefinite detention of prisoners residing at Guantanamo Bay. With this, the prisoners would not have the right to have access to trial by jury or the right to challenge their detention.

In most cases, the natural rights of a person would come first, however, when that person is a threat to a whole nation, the perspective changes. The perspective changes to how to protect the nation, not the terrorists. The people that are imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay are terrorists that are intelligent enough to harm many innocent people. In cases like these, the nation needs to think about the citizens that reside in it, their liberties and rights, not those of a person that is trying to attack and harm those same citizens.

Also, by the constitution, those people who require the natural rights are those who are American citizens. For instance, the issue of not giving or recognizing natural rights already occurs within the nation. For example, when illegal immigrants try to push themselves into the United States, the United States detains the individuals, and without the trial by jury, the United States sends the illegal immigrants back to their own country.

> "By putting the defense bill into effect, the citizens will be protected from potential attacks."
>
> **SARAH BADE**

For the safety of all American citizens, the prisoners in which are imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, should in fact have the authorization of an indefinite detention. This should occur, due to the fact that the nations that they come from do not have a sanction in order to imprison them in order to protect other nations, specifically the United States. By having the United States imprison the terrorists and having them in detention for an indefinite amount of time, the United States will only be taking the precautions necessary to protect the citizens that are loyal and depend on the nation to protect them.

The United States has an obligation to protect the nation in which the constitution stands for, and one way to protect the nation is by putting the defense bill in effect. By putting the defense bill into effect, the citizens will be protected from potential attacks. However, without the defense bill being put into effect the citizens would have the threat of being attacked due to the fact that the United States would not have the terrorists imprisoned and neither would the nations in which the terrorists would have come from.

Though the natural rights of the terrorist would be detained by the United States, the protection and liberties of the American citizens would be in place. Overall, the question of national security and the safety of the American citizens should and does go above and beyond the rights of individuals that have the destruction and take down of the United States in mind.

BY THE NUMBERS

779 prisoners have been held to date

242 prisoners were being held when Obama took office

171 prisoners are currently being held

68 prisoners have been transferred under Obama

156 prisoners cleared for release/ approved for transfer by Obama's interagency task force.

50 countries that have accepted Guantanamo detainees.

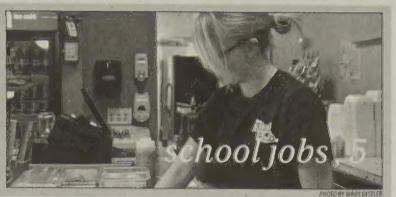


PHOTO BY MARY OSTLER

Dance team dedicates competition season to local causes

BY AARIKA MANKEY
Writer

As the dance team approaches competitions again, it's nothing but sweat and hardcore routine practices to prepare the girls for the grueling competition season. Both JV and Varsity will perform a lyrical, jazz and pom number. The varsity team has also changed up their routine this year, adding historical significance to their lyrical number.

"This year's lyrical routine is based on the 9/11 tragedies and the collapse of the twin towers. It is a powerful piece to remember those who lost their lives or lost loved ones in the attacks 10 years ago," varsity coach Leah Stupeck said. "The jazz choreography is also a very different style from any other jazz routine the team has performed. It is a challenging piece that makes them think and push themselves to a higher level."

The JV team will be performing a mix of pom and jazz dance to a song called Red Shoes.

Just as any other devoted athletes, the dance team has worked tremendously hard to make the show the best it can be. For the girls nearing and competing in competitions, it can only mean they step up their game even more to bring it all home, as well as the coach's high expectations for the girls to win the state title once again.

"Our goals are to win Elite Lyrical at state for the 11th consecutive year (the 12th consecutive state title), place in the top 2 for Varsity Elite Jazz at state and win at NDA nationals in Medium Varsity Pom and Jazz," Stupeck said. "We are also hoping to win state with our Duet, Small and Large Ensembles."

> "I am proud of their commitment to their community and the people who have come into their lives."
>
> **LEAH STUPECK**
> *Dance Team Coach*

Competitions are fast-paced and grueling, running from times as early as 5:30 in the morning to 9 or 10. The girls must remember all their gear and competition necessities: makeup, hair, costumes and, of course, a positive attitude.

"We like to gather together in a group and form a prayer circle before heading out to perform," Varsity member Rachel Torres (11) said.

Taking the floor can be a nerve wracking experience, even after years of dancing. However, dance team members said that they turn to their teammates for confidence and inspiration before show time.

"A lot of us enjoy listening to music on our iPods to pump us up and prepare for the show. We also cheer each other on for encouragement, letting each other know that we're all in it together as a team," JV member Abigail Matovich (9) said.

This year, the team has another reason to perform well. The team recently met a seven year old girl named Camryn at the Junior Dance Clinic, an experience that members said has been both devastating and motivational. Coach Stupeck said that they discovered Camryn has cancerous tumors in her brain and on her spine the week after the clinic. She is currently in treatment at Riley Hospital.

"The dancers of Homestead, Summit and Woodside are dedicating their season to Camyrn and dancing for her every time they take the floor," Stupeck said. "I am most proud of this team for not just performing and competing at a high level and to working to win every weekend, but I am proud of their commitment to their community and the people who have come into their lives."

The girls have a lot to dance for this year as they aim to win another state title and benefit others in need around them.

"You've just got to go for it by telling yourself and everybody else to get out there and leave it all on the floor," Varsity member Emma Franklin (11) said.

A LOOK AHEAD

PHOTO FROM PRETTYINFICTION.COM

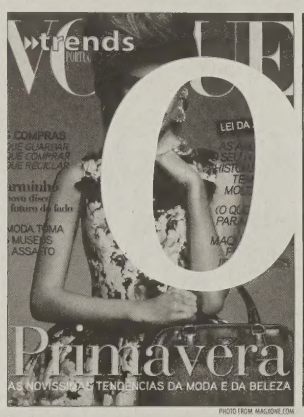


PHOTO FROM MAGAZINE.COM

PHOTO FROM OFCELEBRITY.NET

PHOTO FROM FASHIONFUNDED.NET

Fashion forward students, teachers anticipate interesting year in pop culture

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Copy Editor

It's out with the old and in with the new. The second the clock struck midnight on January 1 and the ball dropped, a myriad of trends became outdated–if not obsolete. As the seasons go round and round, a new wave of fads will break into the scene and control culture for the coming year. But who decides what's in and what's not? Fort Wayne, with its status as a bustling metropolis, is sure to be at the top of the list of what's #trending.

Fashion

The new fashion trends, the very fabric of a student's form of self-expression within the confines of Homestead's walls, must be sure to abide by the notoriously strict dress code. The styles will have to make the grade, so to speak, if they wish to thrive in the hallways.

"For winter and early spring, I anticipate lots of colored denim, chambray button-downs, striped shirts and leather boots," fashionista Jamie Baer (11) said.

These fashion must-haves have been featured on store shelves recently, anticipating their big debut. Not only are these wardrobe staples trendy, but they are versatile as well.

Women's fashion is not the only trend evolving; men's fashion will transform as well.

"Basketball uniforms will be less baggy, and jeans will get even skinner," Scott Hill, English teacher, said.

Hill is referring to trend among skaters and hipsters to wear skinny jeans, pants so tight that a person endangers his or her circulatory system with each wear.

To make room for new trends, old ones must fade into oblivion.

"I really like plaid shirts because they are comfy, but they've run their course this fall and won't be practical come spring," Baer said. "I will still wear mine on cold, wintery days though."

Plus, there's always those fashion don'ts that everyone wishes would go away.

"I want baggy sweats to go away. I know they're amazing–I put sweatpants on as soon as I get home from school–but I think that you shouldn't look like you just rolled out of bed," Baer said.

Baer concedes that there is an exception to this rule.

"If you're having a really bad day or oversiept, [wearing sweatpants] is okay," Baer said.

Music

Forecasts for the music business in 2012 predict more of the same. Likely, at least for the first part of the year, artists who are already popular will continue onward on their path to fame and fortune. Radio stations will persevere with their habit of overplaying catchy tunes until those songs live forever in the backs of minds.

"Lady Gaga will have new hits," music connoisseur Brooke O'Mara (11) said.

Still rearing from the success of her "Born This Way" album, Gaga plans to carry on with her performances and outrageous costumes that leave the audience stunned and perplexed.

"I think techno and dubstep will become even bigger," O'Mara said, referencing a music movement that recently gained popularity despite its origins in the late 1990s.

However, O'Mara expressed disdain at students' attempts to duplicate these trends.

"I want HHS rappers to go away," O'Mara said. "Leave it to the professionals."

Movies

After months of teaser trailers and behind-the-scenes spoilers, it seems that 2012 will once again be the year of the sequels and blockbusters. This year's hottest ticket will be the release of first movie in the Hunger Games trilogy, which will be released in March.

The Hunger Games tells the story of Katniss Everdeen (portrayed in the movie by Jennifer Lawrence) who lives in the dystopian land of Panem. Her desolate home is ruled by the evil Capital, which forces each of the twelve districts to select two tributes to represent themselves in a televised fight to the death for the largest portion of the food for the year. Suzanne Collins' addicting series is a fan favorite, likely leading to a large opening weekend for the movie.

"The books are popular because they are engrossing and impossible to put down," Hunger Games enthusiast Sarah Mattson (12) said. "The tension created when beloved characters must fight to the death is extraordinary."

Mattson has plans to attend the midnight premiere with a group of friends.

"Not only is [the Hunger Games] packed with dramatic, exciting action scenes and an intense love triangle, the book forces the reader to consider the lengths to which they would go to survive, the value of life and modern day society," Mattson said.

Additionally, the increasingly superfluous effect of 3D will be prominent in major motion pictures. Fortunately, a 2D option will still be available for those who prefer a less-than-lifelike experience; or, for those who prefer an even more stimulating movie-going, Hill offers a prediction.

"4D movies will be big in 2012," Hill said.

Exchange student explains cultural differences

Robert Herdt (12) compares German schools, sports, culture trends to American customs

Culture shock often characterizes traveling to a foreign country, but according to foreign exchange student Robert Herdt (12), despite many differences, the United States and Germany are remarkably alike. The Spartana sat down with Herdt to discuss his overseas experience and reflections from fashion to Facebook.

Spartana: Where in Germany did you live, and what school did you go to?

Herdt: I am from Hamburg, Germany. The name of my school is Gymnasium Dorpsweg.

Spartana: How did you become interested in your foreign exchange program, and what steps did you take in the application process?

Herdt: Last year, we had an exchange student visiting from Bulgaria, and he told me about how awesome it is to be an exchange student. After that, my mother asked me if I wanted to be an exchange student too. To apply for the program, I had to fill out several papers, write two pages about myself in English, make a picture collage of my family and me and go to another city to attend a meeting with a lot of other students.

Spartana: Would you say the standards at Homestead are higher or lower than the standards at Gymnasium Dorpsweg?

Herdt: I think the standards in your school are lower than they are in mine.

Spartana: Why?

Herdt: Because in Germany we don't have multiple choice questions on our tests; we have more essays. Also, in Germany, verbal participation counts for sixty percent of our grade.

Spartana: What sports are most popular at your school?

Herdt: In Germany, sports teams are not common in schools. My school has a soccer team, but it doesn't play often against other schools. We don't have baseball or lacrosse at all in Germany.

Spartana: In your opinion, which school system is stricter in terms of discipline?

Herdt: I think your schools are stricter because we can use our phones during the breaks [in between classes.] We don't have ISS or OSS, but we do have something called KlassenKonferenz where you have to meet with your teacher or principal and your parents if you violate a rule. If you get three of them, you get a report in your school certificate. If that happens, you have to go to another school. But it is really hard to get a report.

Spartana: How else are the two school systems different?

Herdt: In America you have elementary school, middle school and high school, but in Germany we only have elementary school, which goes to the fourth grade–after that, you can choose from three different school types. One is Hauptschule, which only goes to ninth grade, and after that you can start working or studying for some job. The second one is Realschule, which goes to tenth grade, and after completing it you have the same options as in Hauptschule. The third one is Gymnasium, which is more like an American high school and goes to twelfth grade.

Spartana: What are some popular German trends in music, movies and the internet, and how are they similar or different from what is popular here?

Herdt: Most teenagers in Germany listen to American music more than German music. Of course there are some who listen to German rap or rock, but most listen to American music. We watch the same movies, except in German, and we go on the same social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter, that American teenagers do.

Spartana: How different is American fashion sense from German taste?

Herdt: I think American and German people actually dress the same; I didn't notice that much of a difference.

Spartana: Are there any American traditions you find particularly unusual?

Herdt: I don't think Thanksgiving is particularly unusual, but we don't celebrate it in Germany.

Spartana: What would you tell an American foreign exchange student to expect if they were going to Germany?

Herdt: I would tell them they are going to have a lot of fun in Germany, because most of the people like foreign exchange students. Also, we can start going to dance clubs and have other privileges when we are sixteen.

I would also like to say that if anyone wants to do an exchange year, but is not sure about it–do it. It is a great experience, and it's a lot of fun.

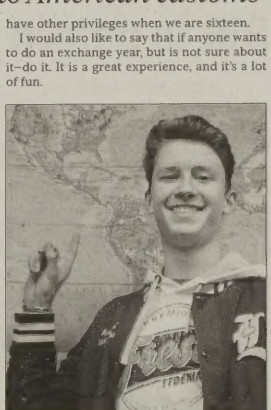


PHOTO BY BEN MARSELLI

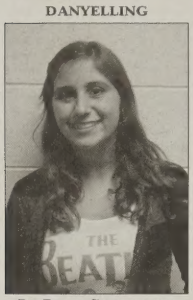
Robert Herdt (12) promotes the study abroad program for the cultural experiences and new friendships he has made during his first semester in Fort Wayne.

Valentine's Day means chick flicks for lonely hearts

Oh, Valentine's Day. A holiday I've always considered somewhere between St. Patrick's Day and National Hot Tea Month (yes, that exists) in order of importance. Although it's a pointless commercial gimmick, it's also a time for optimism, as you can always grab some high-calorie snacks and watch a romantic movie. Whether you're single, taken or beyond hope, you can always live vicariously through others in chick flicks.

According to the authority on the subject, me, a movie is a chick flick if it contains three or more of the following elements: an unlikely romance, a haircut/other minor physical change that makes the main character suddenly beloved, a fake relationship that blossoms into true love, a perfectly-choreographed dance or karaoke number, a dramatic fight and reunion, a running inside joke between the main couple, a chocolate-laden sob fest, "All By Myself" in the soundtrack or a fairytale happy ending.

DANYELLING



BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Co-Editor

In no particular order, here are some chick flicks worthy of your affection this Valentine's Day.

1) The Notebook: Sure, it's cliché. But it's Rachel McAdams and Ryan Gosling! It's funny, it's heartwarming, it's perfect. It's the kind of movie where after it's finished, you're left with three glorious emotional stages. First, optimism, as you think to yourself, "I'm gonna find a love like that someday!" Second, anger, because he's taken by the impossibly gorgeous Allie. And finally, depression, as you remember he's not actually real and is like 20 years older than you.

Moral Of the Story: If a girl runs into her poor ex-boyfriend that she once had a summer fling with, she will leave her rich fiancée and marry him instead, particularly if the old flame is attractive and becomes a self-made millionaire. Happens all the time.

2) Beauty and the Beast: To those of you who are mentally denying this is a chick flick: think again. Perfectly choreographed song/dance numbers? Check. Happy ending? Of course. Unlikely romance? Duh. He's a beast.

General Assertion about Love: It's okay to fall in love with someone ugly; they will magically become attractive (or a human being) with the power of your warmth.

3) 10 Things I Hate About You: A delightful combination of a cynical Julia Stiles and Heath Ledger, pre-Joker. The world looks a lot better after you watch him dancing around the bleachers, singing "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" to an amused but appreciative Kat. Spontaneous karaoke done right.

Advice: Even though your sister's boyfriend paid him off to date you, that juvenile delinquent will eventually fall in love with you and purchase you a costly instrument. So in the meantime, write a poem about your feelings for him and read it dramatically aloud. He'll come around.

4) Titanic: I felt socially obligated to include this in the list, although there are elements of the movie that have always bothered me. First of all, Rose knew Jack for approximately five days. They literally dated for twenty-four hours. And there was plenty of room on that board for both of them! Sure, I cried, like every other sad sap on the planet. But seriously, if Rose had scooted a couple inches to the left, she would still have her man, and I would have my countless boxes of Kleenex back.

"You can always live vicariously through others in chick flicks."

DANI CASTONZO

Word to the Wise: Stick with the guy you're supposed to marry, because the man you fall unexpectedly in love with will most likely drown in a freak boat accident.

5) When Harry Met Sally: I laughed, I cried, I fell a little bit in love with Billy Crystal. This movie does the cheesy I-fell-in-love-with-my-best-friend storyline so well. Please watch it.

Hope for the Eternally "Friend-Zoned": Although it's cliché, it is acceptable to fall in love with your best friend if he gives a romantic speech about you on New Year's Eve.

6) Pride and Prejudice: Jane Austen may have written the book three hundred years ago, but her male leads are still going strong, particularly in the BBC and Keira Knightley adaptations. I prefer the BBC version, as Colin Firth is attractive if you look past the monstrous sideburns, and Elizabeth Bennet is believable and normal-looking.

The Bottom Line: It's okay to be plain and broke, because the attractive, rich man that you hate will fall in love with you and become a delightful human being.

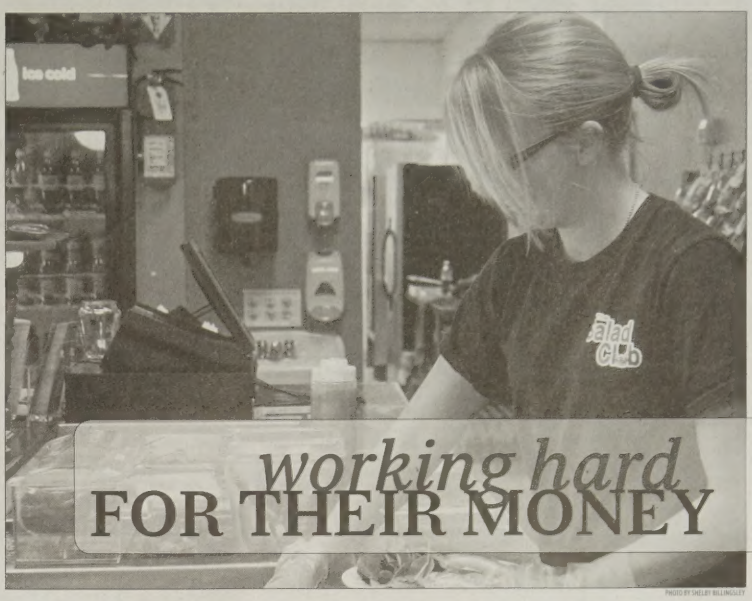
7) Dirty Dancing: Sure, it's a cheesy 80's movie. Patrick Swayze is a male bimbo and everything is twice as dramatic as it needs to be.

Tip: If you want to find the man of your dreams and achieve self-actualization, secretly learn how to ballroom dance.

8) Valentine's Day: Of course.

Obviously: Everyone will find love on Valentine's Day. Even if you're eighty, dating a married guy, gay, on the dance team, an adult phone operator, recently dumped or in elementary school.

So enjoy being single this year. You won't be the only one snuggling with a remote.



working hard FOR THEIR MONEY

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Rachel Klein (11) has managed her job at Salad Club where she gets job experience by preparing food, serving and cleaning.

Student employees juggle commitments between school, work

BY WILLIAM NGO
Writer

Although some had imaginary jobs as children, employment is no longer a game for a number of dedicated young adults. Turning play time into work time, employed students must find an equal balance between work, school and their personal lives.

Holding a job can be overwhelming to many teenagers, but Amanda Bradford (10) sought one out regardless. After searching, Bradford obtained a position at apparel store Old Navy. Her job consists of assisting customers, operating the cash register and overseeing the changing room.

Bradford said that she enjoys her job, but admits that her work shifts often coincide with her personal life. On numerous occasions, she has been scheduled to work on weekends, a time when her friends are less occupied with other obligations. By the time her shifts ends, it is either too late to meet up with friends or she is too tired to do so.

However, Bradford said her first day on the job was the most exhausting to date. When she applied for the job, little did she know that her first day would be on Black Friday – which is often the busiest shopping day of the year.

"I was in the fitting room and people just kept swarming in and out, leaving clothes everywhere," Bradford said. "It was pure chaos."

Similar to Bradford, Rachel Klein (11) is keeping busy working at The Salad Club, which has required her to reorder her responsibilities. Although she is a dancer, Klein has had to lose approximately 10 hours of practice in order to work at the eatery, where she assists in food preparation, serving, catering and cleaning.

"When my shift is over, I smell like onions and lettuce, but I always have a blast at work," Klein said.

She has been forced to sacrifice much of her time, but she said that her job has not gotten in the way of completing school work. For Klein, luckily, the hours worked at the Salad Club have not affected her grades.

"I was in the fitting room and people just kept swarming in and out, leaving clothes everywhere. It was pure chaos."

AMANDA BRADFORD (10)
Old Navy Employee

Though Bradford and Klein have to balance their personal lives with work schedules, Dustin Moore (12) has to find equilibrium between his job and extracurricular activities. In addition to his job at Firehouse Subs, Moore participates in bowling, cross country and track and field. Needless to say, his extracurricular activities require just as much commitment and time.

In some instances, Moore has had to readjust his obligations and ask for time off from work. To his benefit, Moore said the restaurant owners are very understanding. Because of work, however, he must organize his time effectively to make plenty of room for not only sports, but homework as well.

It is not uncommon to have employed students sacrifice hours of personal time in order to work, but they also need to find a matching stage for schoolwork. Nolan Wallace (12) seized the opportunity to work as a courtesy clerk at the Fresh Market, a store consisting of organic and fresh products, but said having a job has made him become more attentive and cautious when it comes to time management.

Although Wallace enjoys working with his fellow employees and environment at Fresh Market, he admits that his job takes up the majority of his time.

"Working has made me realize how much time I waste," Wallace said.

His time for academics has decreased, but Wallace is still able to complete school assignments through careful time management. Aside from occasional rude housewives he encounters while working, Wallace said he does not regret applying for a spot at The Fresh Market.

While some students are able to successfully manage a job, others said that holding a job during the school year would negatively impact their schoolwork and be too demanding of their schedules.

"[Working] would noticeably hurt my grades mostly because of its significant time requirement," Jeremy Steele (11) said.

Many students similar to Steele decide to focus on their education instead of adding stress with a job. However, students who are able to juggle various responsibilities in their life should be proud of their perseverance.

"Having a job has made me prioritize and find a balance," Klein said. "It's working out really well."

Valentine's day gifts becoming unique

Sentimental, homemade presents growing in popularity for couples

BY ALISON MANSFIELD
Life Co-Editor

Wide-eyed stuffed animals, rose bouquets and sultry sweets are always romantic staples, but this year, unconventional Valentine's Day ideas encourage students and staff to think outside the heart-shaped box.

Traditional Valentine's Day tokens are always appreciated for their aesthetic value, but the emotional significance an item has to the receiver can prove more valuable than the gift itself.

For student art teacher Elizabeth Fieldhouse, the best Valentine's Day gift was one purchased with her husband's aid.

"One year, my husband and I went shopping and picked out a great pair of worn-out, brown cowboy boots together," Fieldhouse said. "They may not be the most romantic thing, but I love them so much. I've had them for seven years."

Cowboy boots may be unique, but often, originality is the very thing which makes a Valentine's Day gift stand out. Flowers and chocolate are widely perceived as romantic, but some people said that they prefer a gift with more meaning behind them.

"[A good Valentine's Day gift] should be something creative and special–not a teddy bear or some chocolate," Fieldhouse said. "Those things are so overused. A good gift should be something outside the box."

In fact, some of the best Valentine's Day gift ideas cannot be contained in a box at all.

"Cooking a nice meal for someone would be a great [Valentine's Day gift]," Robert McCoy (9) said. "You're doing something nice for them, and you get to spend time eating together."

Valentine's Day dinners and celebrations make for romantic, small gatherings; however, Andrew Crawford (11) said he believes a larger celebration should be in order for the holiday.

"I think it would be really awesome to throw someone a surprise Valentine's Day party," Crawford said. "It would be really fun to have all of your friends there to celebrate the day together."

But Valentine's Day is not only a holiday to commemorate couples or friends; it is also a time to appreciate everyone you love. In fact, many families choose to express their love for one another with Valentine's Day gifts as well.

"My family has always celebrated with some chocolates or a card," Max Dvorak (11) said. "It's always nice to do something to show your family you care about them."

For English teacher Ellen Nelson, Valentine's Day holds memories of childhood spent at home with family.

"Valentine's Day was always a special day at my house, because my maiden name was 'Valentine'" Nelson said. "My dad used to buy all of us those heart-shaped boxes of Russell Stover chocolates. My husband definitely had a lot to live up to marrying a 'Valentine'."

Whether a traditional, eccentric or exciting gift is the best option for your valentine, a good gift should be something personal and meaningful. Flowers die and chocolates are quickly consumed, but a sentimental pair of cowboy boots or surprise Valentine's Day party will never lose its meaning.

"Love is the fact above all fiction and the word above all diction. It is the one thing in my life people call blind, but has mysteriously found me," Kaleb Schlatter (11) said. "[A good Valentine's Day gift] is anything that comes from the heart."

▶▶110

million red roses were sold throughout the nation on Valentine's day in 2011 according to TheRomantic.com.

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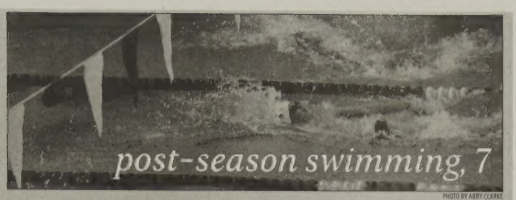


post-season swimming, 7

PHOTO BY ABBY CLARKE

Lady Spartans prepare for NHC battle

Girls' basketball ranked second in NHC, looks to post-season challenges, State title

BY HAIDEN STEINGASS
Writer

The girls' varsity basketball team is midway through their season and has had tremendous success thus far, with a record of 15-4-0.

As difficult games approach, the team welcomes competition as a mode to improve perfect their skills leading into the postseason. The team has certainly shared a number of disappointments throughout the season but hope to shift momentum.

"All of our upcoming games are important to our success because they are all preparation for our post season," team captain, Carmen Lowe (12) said, "And we have a lot of tough teams that are talented and are going to be a challenge for us and make us better."

Despite the team's loss by a last second-shot in the crucial game against Northrop, the girls are still motivated and hold a second-place title in the NHC Conference, as well as top-25 ranking in the state.

"We knew it was going to be a battle going into the Northrup game, and we worked hard to prepare for it. It's a bummer that we didn't get the outcome we wanted, but we learned a lot from that game," Captain Emily Bley (11) said.

While the team has learned from its previous loss, the athletes prefer to reflect on previous successes to inspire future performances. After winning games against Wayne by a score of 70-66 and Bellmont by a score of 73-41, the team remains confident about their upcoming games against Dekalb and rival Snider, both of which will prove challenging games for the team.

"[The previous] games showed that even when our opponents don't have the talent we do, we still work hard and win, and mentally and physically prepare for the game," Lowe said.

The team devotes the majority of its attention toward defeating Snider; however, the ambitious athletes have their sights set on a successful postseason venture as well.. The team is hoping that by capturing a victory over Snider, it will prove itself an able competitor throughout the state.

"The Snider game will be a distinguishing game in the second half of the season. It will really show where we are at and how to prepare for the post season," captain Karley Dobis (12) said.

By focusing on defense, the team has been able to often keep their competitors under 30 points; thus, they believe they will be able to retain a main goal for the future, to keep the opposing team under 40 points. Their team chemistry has been in their favor when playing a strong defense, and the girls are assured that they will remain focused as a key to their success, they have the talent, and they can beat any team in the state.

This season, the team is led by six captains who include seniors Lowe, Dobis, Hillary Kartman, Rachel Herbert, Kaylee Walker, and junior, Bley. These athletes do much to keep the team coordinated during competitions and focused on improving during practices.

"[The freshmen] have really stepped up this year and played well above their years To me, they stand out," Dobis said.

Though the team has experienced four losses this season, the athletes are prepared to beat out any competition that is handed to them. It is safe to say that the level of confidence on the team is at an all-time high.

"We have had some extremely unluckily moments this year (two losses on a buzzer beater), but going through that heartache is what has lead us to today. We are stronger, more prepared, and more together as a team. We can handle anything," Dobis said.

▶▶15
wins have been scored by the girl's basketball team over their NHC opponents throughout the season, making thier score 15-4-0.

spartans *rule* THE RIM

Intramural basketball sparks rivalry amongst students

BY JACOB COOK
Writer

This week marked the start of intramural basketball season at Homestead. In what has become a fabled tradition for boys of all grades, this year is shaping up to be more intense than years past. Although the regular season began January 17th, trash talk and overall intensity has already settled in between teams.

The intramural system is split into two leagues; League A, which is for seniors and juniors typically, and League B, normally reserved for freshmen and sophomores. With competitiveness that rivals that of varsity basketball, the season lasts six weeks and is followed by a winner-take-all tournament with nothing but bragging rights and pride on the line.

For students, the league has been a great way to have fun with classmates and stay in shape.

"I've done intramurals since my sophomore year," Kyle O'Malley (12) said. "It's fun, but it can get a little too competitive sometimes."

O'Malley is part of the team "#Let'sGetWeird" with Frankie Zirille (12), Ryan Petrill (12), Nathan Haines (12), Austin Williams (12), John McMillin (12), Taylor Beam (12), Kyle Lake (12), and Dan "Get Big" Veerkamp (12).

Others play for the love of the sport.

"I play because I love basketball, but I don't actually play for Homestead," Matt Skowronek (11) said.

Skowronek is on the team "Coming Back From Behind" with a close group of friends.

"Last year we won off of a bunch of huge comebacks, so we thought the name was fitting," Skowronek said.

Others are participating in the league for the first time, including Daniyal Munir (12).

"It's my first season, but I'm excited to play," Munir said. Munir, who plays on the "Paint Police," was upset with the outcome of their first game.

"We lost our first game to 'Coming Back From Behind' with a final score of 42-73," Munir said. "It was a rough start, but we have a game plan now."

> "From what I've heard, things can get pretty rough on the court. ..We'll just have to see if that is really true."
>
> **DANIYAL MUNIR (12)**
> *Intramural Participant*

In the past, competitiveness has lead to minor hostilities before games.

"Before a game last year, there was some pretty serious trash talk between teams," O'Malley said. While bragging rights are the only thing on the line, the league is almost as competitive as any varsity sport at Homestead.

"From what I've heard, things can get pretty rough on the court," Munir said. "We'll just have to wait and see if that is really true."

While the season only started on the 17th, teams are already eyeing the single-elimination tournament that comes after the six-week regular season. Many players around the league are picking favorite teams and predictions as to the overall winner have already come out.

"I think '#Let's Get Weird' has a legitimate shot at winning everything this year," O'Malley said. "There are some tough teams to play, but I think our depth will contribute to a lot of our success."

However, Munir and Skowronek both seem to think that "Coming Back From Behind" is the favorite this year.

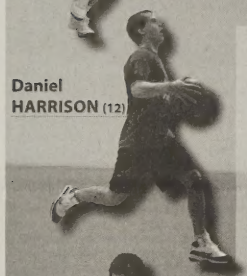
"They put a pretty severe beating on us in our first game," Munir said. "It's hard to imagine they wouldn't be the best in the school."

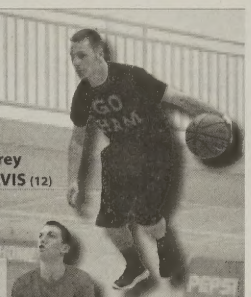
Skowronek, who claims his opinion is unbiased, agrees with Munir.

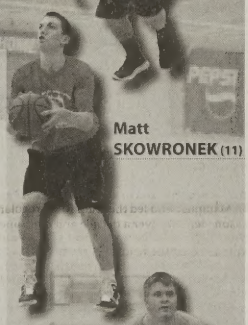
"Of course I think we'll win," Skowronek said. "We thought our name for this year was fitting, but after our first win, apparently not."

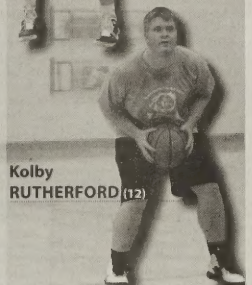
Overall, it is shaping up to be another incredible year for intramural basketball. With teams hard at work forging game plans and learning other teams strategy, this year looks to be as competitive if not more so than last year.

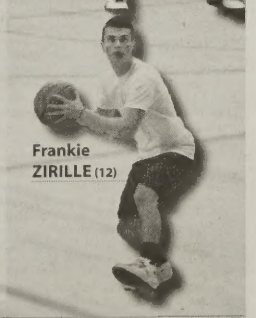
"I think it's going to be a really good year for the league," O'Malley said. "It's always fun to play organized games, but of course we're looking to win.











PHOTOS BY BEN MIKESELL

Veteran swim coach, Chad Englehart, reflects on career, prepares for post-season

The Spartana sits down with the head coach of the girls' and boys' swim teams. Chad Englehart has been coaching for over fifteen years and has led the teams to undefeated seasons, as well as sectional and conference championships. Last year, he led the girls' team to the title of runner-up in the state. Along with team success, Englehart has received a number of "Coach of the Year" awards for the conference in his time as head coach.

Spartana: How did you get started with swimming?

Englehart: As a way to get me out of the house in the summer as a six year old.

Spartana: How did you start coaching?

Englehart: As a developmental coach with my club team when I was 16.

Spartana: What's your favorite part about swimming?

Englehart: Racing. As a coach and as an athlete. The competition, in practice and in meets, is what I live for.

Spartana: What's your favorite part about coaching?

Englehart: Helping the kids do things they never thought possible. Helping them reach goals and break through barriers.

Spartana: What's your favorite memory as a coach?

Englehart: There have been so many amazing moments. It would be impossible to single out just one. I have truly been blessed.

Spartana: What's your personal philosophy on coaching?

Englehart: You have to train better to be better. There are no short cuts to success.

Spartana: How do you think your team will do at sectionals and state?

Englehart: The girls' team will dominate the Sectional and compete for a state title. The boys' team will win a close Sectional and compete for their 11th consecutive top ten finish at state.

Spartana: How do you prepare teams to compete at such a high level?

Englehart: Hard work. I set very high expectations and push the kids to achieve more than they think is possible.

Spartana: How long do you plan to coach at Homestead? And do you have any future plans?

Englehart: I plan to die on the pool deck. Sounds a little dark, but I truly believe coaching is my calling in life and I plan to do it until I stop breathing.

Spartana: Do you have any people qualifying for the Olympics this year?

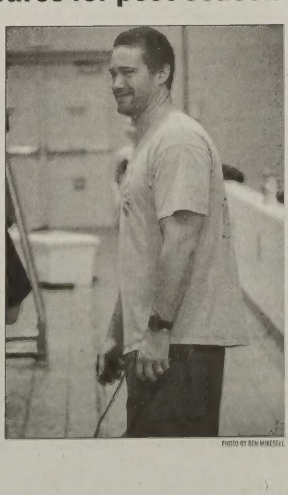
Englehart: Tori Bagan is a freshman at Ohio University, but she qualified for the US Olympic Trials last year as a senior at Homestead. We have several other talented swimmers that are very close. Hopefully March will produce several additional qualifiers. The big goal is to have 12 current and past Homestead swimmers at the 2012 Olympic Trials.

Spartana: Did you swim in college?

Englehart: Yes, at the University of Kansas. I was a Jayhawk.

Spartana: How do you feel about having 8 seniors going to swim in college next year?

Englehart: Very proud of them. This has been a great senior class and I am confident they will make Homestead very proud as they blossom in college.



Chad Englehart is the key component to the success of the varsity swim program and has been recognized numerously for his coaching achievements.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Ex-coach Caldwell not fully responsible for Colts' losing year

I do not ardently follow the NFL. As sacrilegious as this may seem for a Sports Editor, a professional football game is too slow to retain my attention. I used to check SportsCenter for highlights and score updates, but I heard ESPN Networks replaced that show with a new one, All About Tebow.

While contently oblivious to the happenings of the NFL, I learned of a game-changing occurrence within the league through the best source of honest news and teen relationship advice, Twitter. Evidently, several days after firing the team vice chairman Bill Polian and general manager Chris Polian, the Colts team owner Jim Irsay fired the head coach, Jim Caldwell, as well.

AVERAGE JOE

Such a rapid clean of house caught my attention, and I decided to research what prompted the restructuring within the franchise, particularly the head coach position. From what I can tell, the outrage of the fans that were unhappy with Caldwell's poor game management held a significant impact in Irsay's decision to release Caldwell.

BY JOE LAUGHLIN
Sports Editor

From the team's statistics, the fans had every right to be furious. The Colts lost the first 13 games of the season before winning twice, only to lose again and conclude the season with a record of 2-14. The team played poorly. From the glimpses that I caught of the team's games, the Colts looked worse than I did after I challenged Daymon Osborn (12) to a wrestling match in seventh grade.

While the franchise and fans target Caldwell as the source of the problem, I'm not so sure that is the case. In his debut season as head coach of the Colts, Caldwell went 14-2, losing the last two games only for benching his best players to prepare for the postseason. In the same year, he became the fifth rookie head coach to take a team to the Super Bowl. The following season, the team went 10-6, largely to do the severely injury-plagued roster, but still advanced to the playoffs. So, if Caldwell has done well in the past, who should the fans be mad at?

The Colts' lack of success can largely be attributed to the loss of star quarterback Peyton Manning, who led the team to 115 regular-season victories over a decade and one Super Bowl title. His replacements had a little more experience on the field than Evan James (11), a decent Madden 2012 player. Moreover, the team ended the regular season with the third-worst offense in the league and the seventh-worst defense in the league.

Even if Caldwell is responsible for this, the Colts still have earned the third-fewest yards per game with 286.8, while the defense allowed the seventh-most yards per game with 370.9, nearly 100 yards than the Steelers, who allowed the fewest yards per game.

It appears as though Caldwell is capable of coaching a Super Bowl caliber team, while the players under his leadership haven't proven themselves capable of tying their shoes. Maybe a new coaching staff is really what this team needs; however, much of the blame goes to the poor performances of the players.

While this situation in the NFL perfectly outlines an incorrect displacement of blame, such situations aren't limited to the world of football. The greatest displacement of blame, I believe, occurs in the educational system. When a student, occasionally including myself, does poorly on a test, he blames the teacher for neglecting to cover all the material in class or scheduling a test too soon. The student can accuse the teacher for making a test that contains irrelevant material or being simply unfair to the students.

If a student falls behind in school, a parent, with no knowledge of the classroom situation, blames the teacher for ineptitude or failing to put enough effort into classroom lessons. The parent might even suggest that the students around his child are distracting him, thus preventing him from learning.

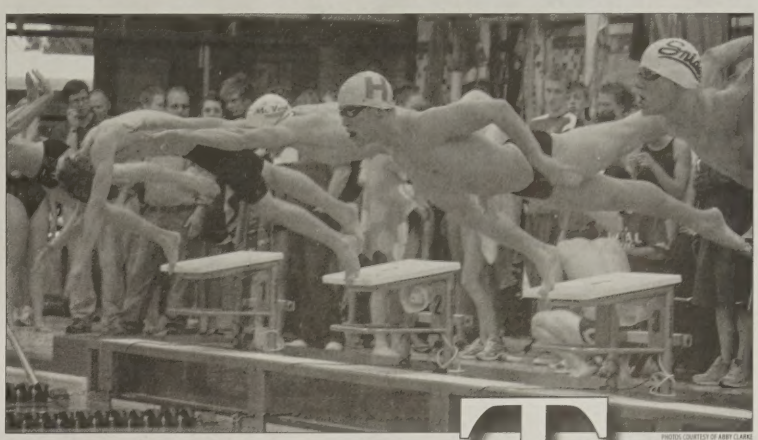
The pressure put on teachers by students, parents, and school systems, however, I find to be erroneously placed. The student may not perform well on a test because he didn't pay attention in class, study hard enough outside of class, or use the multiple resources available to him. Also, as opposed to attacking a teacher, the parent should take responsibility for making sure his child does his homework and receives all the help he needs outside of class.

The incorrect displacement of blame has some serious negative ramifications.

With standardized tests, which are increasingly used as the only mode of tracking student achievement, the displacement of blame is obscene. Teachers are under heavy scrutiny for somehow derailing the future leaders of the world if students perform poorly on standardized tests; therefore, teachers are changing their curriculum to focus on test scores. A survey done by Education Week showed that 79 percent of teachers said they used a "great deal" or "somewhat" of classroom time to teaching test-taking skills, as opposed to teaching valuable lessons outside the testing that promote creativity and innovation.

As with the Colts, a coach shouldn't be fired after one poor season. If the coach is removed this quickly, he won't be able to familiarize with players and program, which would ultimately allow him to make strategic changes to better the team in the future.

The pressure on teachers and coaches seems to me to be inhibiting progress, rather than promoting it. But maybe I'm entirely wrong; if so, at least I can acknowledge that it wasn't because the kid next to me was poking me with a pencil.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ABBY CLARKE

back on TOP

Swim teams dominate Conference, work to finish strong in postseason

BY TYLER KOTESKY
Writer

Both the girls' swim team and the boys' swim teams won the NHC Conference Championship. The girls' team dominated its competition, finishing the meet 99 points ahead of the runner-up, Carroll. The boys' team, however, experienced greater competition, and only narrowly defeated Carroll by 12 points, 536-524.

The first and second place finishes of Homestead and Carroll, respectively, are an annual perennial occurrence at the NHC Conference Championship. The Spartans continued their tradition of dominance, however, by sweeping the meet, as they have 9 times in the last 10 years.

"I think that everyone on the team really stepped up this year to win conference," Joel Foreman (12), an experienced leader of the team, said. "We all realized how important every single kid on the team was in our victory this year, so everyone went out and swam their best to contribute to our win."

Not only did they continue their dominance in the NHC, but they also did so in the comfort of their own SACS natatorium. As they have in past years, the teams hosted the contest themselves. "It's our home pool and where we put in all of our hard work, so it's nice to see it pay off there too," Caroline Weigand (10) said.

In fact, the very morning of the meet, the teams had a 2-hour practice to prepare for it. Both teams were sweating even before the meet started; thus, they were not completed rested or tapered as many of the NHC teams there were. This fact just shows how impressive the victory really is, with many swimming their best times of the season.

One tradition the team has also kept for many years is the tradition of cheering for their teammates. Members of the team take pride in their promise to refrain from sitting down until the meet is over, constantly providing support for their teammates.

"The atmosphere in the natatorium was incredibly loud and as always, dominated by Homestead swimmers and supporters," Foreman said. "As a team we never sit down during meets, if you're not swimming or in the cool down pool, you're on the side cheering on your teammates that are in the water, which creates a very positive and energetic atmosphere on our team."

This intense support from teammates propelled the boys' team to achieve a narrow victory against a tough Carroll squad, who beat the Spartans in the NHC Conference Championship last year. By renewing their long-time NHC dominance, the swimmers felt they had shown significant improvement from last year.

"Especially since Carroll beat us last year, winning the NHC title back was incredibly important to us, and it was great to have Carroll come into our home and figure out exactly what they're up against this year," Shane Talley (12) said.

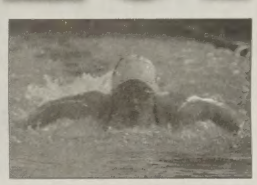
Heading into the postseason, the girls' team is trying to build upon its impressive second-place finish in last year's state meet, and get revenge on the top-ranked team from Carmel High School. The boys' team also placed in the top ten last year by finishing eighth. As proven already by the boys' NHC victory, the two teams are not the same as last year's teams.

"The difficulty of our practices has increased this season," Courtney Klefeker (12) said. "I think most people are more focused, and we have clear goals were going for."

Other swimmers also attributed the success to their renewed focus as a team, working together to achieve their goals for the season. At the beginning of the season, the members of the girls team sought to be a top contender in the state, and as a result of their determination, they are currently ranked second in the state.

The recent victory has given both teams a great amount of confidence as they approach the postseason.

"I can't express how excited I am to see what my boys are going to do this year at sectionals," Talley said.



ROAD TO STATE

GIRLS:
- Sectional Finals - Saturday, Feb. 4 at Southside Natatorium
- State Prelims - Friday, Feb. 10 at IUPUI Natatorium
- State Finals - Saturday, Feb. 11 at IUPUI Natatorium

BOYS:
- Sectional Prelims - Thursday, Feb. 16 at Southside Natatorium
- Sectional Finals - Saturday, Feb. 18 at Southside Natatorium
- State Prelims - Friday, Feb. 24 at IUPUI Natatorium
- State Finals - Saturday, Feb. 25 at IUPUI Natatorium

Top: Jacob Cook (12) dives in at the Hamilton Southeastern Invitational over Winter Break to swim the 200 Individual Medley.
Top Right: Katie Krivacs (10) swims the 100 butterfly at the Conference meet where she won 5th place in the race.
Below: Winning first in the 100 freestyle at Conference, Mariah Hamil (12) breathes as she begins her second half of her race.

Wrestling proves strong in scores, teamwork

BY LAUREN PURLEE
Feature Editor

As the wrestling team ventures into the latter half of its season, it has gained momentum and confidence by continuously displaying excellence in competition.

"So far I think the season has gone pretty well," said Eli Scherer (9).

In dual competition, the team has won 9 out of 17 matches, and they have won one major invitational. One of the most significant meets thus far was the Mooresville Holiday Classic, held at Mooresville High School from December 27th to December 28th.

"Everyone faced strong wrestlers," Scherer said.

The team managed, however, to place 7th in a very tough field of 16 teams. This middle-of-the-road place at Mooresville gave the Spartans a chance to learn from their mistakes and improve upon them.

Obviously the reflection paid off; ten days later, at the New Haven Invitational on January 7th, they took home their 5th consecutive NHI championship trophy.

"Winning the New Haven Invitational for the fifth year in a row was a good highlight for our team this year," Nolan Appel (12) said.

With the state meet less than one month away, all eyes are focused on the postseason.

"As a team, the goal is to send as many guys as deep into the postseason as possible," captain Kody George (12) said.

The road will not be easy, as the New Haven Conference is full of capable teams. To ensure optimal results, the team members have been using one another as support to improve their skills in practice and to perform better in competition.

As the team requires significant performances from younger wrestlers, such as Scherer, the team-oriented atmosphere enables the inexperienced athletes to develop their skills, and better assist the team.

"Being on varsity my first year is great... it really allows me to make that I'm going to have to make to get better," Scherer said. "It allows me to be around guys like Kody, who always shows great leadership and helps everyone on the team with any questions they have."

While the team likes to emphasize their communal goals, each individual has their own personal goals to meet as well. For Appel, an experience wrestler, an acceptable postseason finish would be to qualify for and place in state competition. Scherer, in his debut season with the team, wishes to place in the top-four places at sectionals and to clench a berth in the regional competition.

George, a veteran athlete and team leader, holds individually high expectations for himself.

"I want to be up on that state podium. Obviously I want to win it all, but I think 3rd is a very realistic goal for this year."

He was also very quick to establish, however, that the biggest highlight of the season for him has "definitely been all the fun we've had."

The wrestlers will be at an individual competition taking place at Carroll on tomorrow.

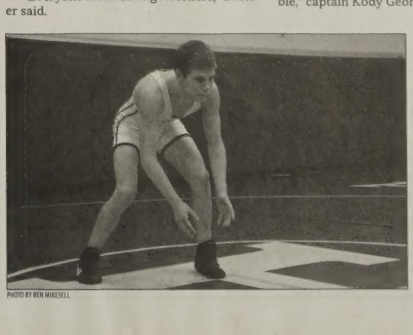
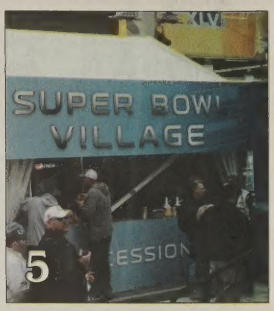


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Kody George (12) positions himself to prepare for a match. He hopes for a third place finish in the season.

[Photos by Meggie Vail]

1. Banners for the XLVI super bowl cover the downtown area.
2. Lucas Oil Stadium is the location for the clash between the Giants and the Patriots.
3. Monument Circle in the center of downtown Indianapolis is also decorated for the monumental event.
4. Super bowl enthusiasts walk around the VIP lounge in the Super Bowl Village.
5. In addition to the numerous activities offered, visitors indulge in refreshments at one of the many concession stands within the Village.



the epicenter of AWESOME

Super Bowl spirits bring excitement statewide for big game

By Mary Distler
Editor-in-Chief of Design

Already attracting over 200,000 more people in one weekend, **Indianapolis has set the stage for the world to watch Sunday night.** Over 150 million viewers are expected to tune in as the New England Patriots take on the New York Giants in the biggest title in the NFL. As host of the first major sporting event of 2012, Indianapolis offers many outlets for experiencing the big game.

Above: A visitor to the Super Bowl Village zip lines over downtown Indianapolis streets.
Right: Visitors are entertained by one of many musical acts occurring at the main stage within the Super Bowl Village.

Students and teachers have spent time over the past week to visit the Super Bowl village in downtown Indianapolis. Cameron Dark (11) visited the packed city twice to visit the NFL Experience center in the Convention Center. This center includes interactive football games, clinics and activities that make the Super Bowl more personal to visitors. Dark was able to visit during signings by several professional players.

"Shaking hands with the man himself, Adam Vinatieri, was a very memorable moment from my first visit," Dark said.

Jamie Frazier a Physical Education teacher experienced working at the Village.

"I volunteered to work at the NFL Experience because I really wanted to be a part of the Super Bowl experience," Frazier said. "This might be a once in a lifetime opportunity, and it is a great way to show the rest of the world how great our state truly is."

Frazier was offered the opportunity to volunteer because of his experience volunteering for the Final Four events for the NCAA basketball tournament in Indianapolis over the past few years.

"Because I volunteered with [the Indiana Sports Corporation] then, they contacted me about two years ago about working with them for the Super Bowl," Frazier said. "They held training in Indy for our specific event and have had online classes dealing with service and security issues that go into being a volunteer."

Frazier will miss other offers while he works at the NFL Experience, but he sees this opportunity as a positive for himself and the state.

"I will be helping out kids and families to participate in the activities. That will be rewarding because for many that will be 'their Super Bowl,'" Frazier said. "Most people cannot afford to go to the game, but they can experience a taste of the NFL at the convention center."

Aside from the convention center, Indianapolis has other venues to experience the game. A four-line zip line has been set up for two weeks to offer an aerial view of Capital Avenue, making it the longest temporary zip line in the United States. In order to demonstrate team support, two human sized hamster wheels have been created in the city to generate energy. After the game, the winning team will be announced the champions. The village is finished off with thirty foot tall numerals for this 46th Super Bowl in Monument Circle. These iconic symbols mark the Super Bowl Village entrance and open the way to the tailgate town that offers many tailgating activities.

For those staying home to watch on the big screen, there are still many highlights to find locally.

Super Bowl watching parties gather to make bets and play side games to celebrate an unofficial American holiday. Tailgate favorite like corn hole is commonly seen at parties even if they are indoors. With games, food makes a large appearance at Karley Dobis' (12) annual party.

"To celebrate the day, we have a Super Bowl sundae at halftime. It is something that stuck each year because it is catchy, people love ice cream and in last year's case, we didn't want to watch the halftime show," Dobis said.

With the great football on screen, some groups watch just to see what will come next on the lineup of hundreds of commercials. These special spots for best public viewing are reserved in advance and typically cost millions for only thirty seconds of screen time. Last year's Volkswagen Star Wars mixture made many top three lists as well as Doritos and Paramount movie advertisements.

"The commercials give our guests that are not as in to football something to be entertained by," Dobis said.

With so many events to celebrate prior to the game, fans still don't forget the main focus of the weekend: the football game.

Dark, a Patriots fan, is not planning to attend the Super Bowl at the Lucas Oil Stadium, but along with many other Hoosiers, would do almost anything to be a part of the 700,000 in the stands.

"I would be willing to sell my soul to get a ticket to the Super Bowl this year," Dark said.

Likewise, different groups throughout the state have used the coveted tickets as prizes for many things. Monday, it was announced that an Indiana woman won a pair of tickets by donating blood.

The excitement and lure of this year's Super Bowl may seem bigger than in years past, but due to the close proximity of the host city and the various activities planned for the weeks surrounding game day, the Super Bowl has become a social and athletic event.

"I predict the game to be Patriots: 30 Giants: 24," Dark said. "If I am wrong, I'll probably cry myself to sleep for the next 2 or 3 months and always have a dark spot in my heart."

facebook crawl

Every Sunday night Facebook Expert Jacob Cook will attempt to capture the most impulsive responses on Facebook Chat.

Question: "What part of the Super Bowl are you looking forward to most?"

John Hester (12) ▶▶ "Both the commercials and hopefully seeing Tom Brady's face when he loses."

Joel Foreman (12) ▶▶ "The food, definitely food, commercials, mainly the food."

Hunter Brutton (12) ▶▶ "dude. The commercials."

Sarah Mattson (12) ▶▶ "I'm most looking forward to watching the patriots get crushed in the Luke."

Brandon Troyer (12) ▶▶ "gotta say the super bowl parties."

Wesleigh Carroll (9) ▶▶ "Oh my gosh I'm in the newspaper!"

Tyler Warren (12) ▶▶ "Watching the Pats choke."

Robbie Veenstra (11) ▶▶ "Maddona's halftime show."

Lauren Hughes (12) ▶▶ "Watching the colts win. I really think manning and the boys can pull it off."

Spencer Amborn (12) ▶▶ "Watching Janet and Justin repeat their halftime show."

Hallie Nowak (9) ▶▶ The commercials!

the SPARTANA

NEWS Due to the popularity of previous years, the Variety Show was expanded to a new two-night display of student talent. **2**

OPINION The overemphasis on rigor and workload in the courses established by administration for the student body. **3**

LIFE The revived Lorax Environmental Club begins fundraising for tree-planting that will take place this spring. **5**

SPORTS The boys' basketball team captures a Sectional title for the first time in ten years over Wayne High School. **7**

FEATURE Students reflect on Just Because Week, which includes combination of new and established activities. **8**

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Friday, March 9, 2012 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Nomination for academic award named

By Sydney Brummett
Writer

Nicholas Litchin (12) has recently been nominated for the Indiana Academic All-Star award, which recognizes academic success.

One student from each school in the state is nominated along with his or her influential teacher to attend a luncheon ceremony where 90 students are recognized as regional winners and 40 are awarded as being Indiana Academic All-Stars. Students are nominated based on test scores, grade point average, academic courses, academic achievement, extracurricular activities and community service, according to the Indiana Association of School Principals.

Litchin

"I am happy and proud that the school would nominate me," Litchin said.

As a candidate for the award, he was to choose the teacher who influenced him most; he selected Ellen Waite, Latin teacher.

"He has clear goals for himself, and any teacher who has had him in class can clearly see that," Waite said.

The academic success of Litchin along with his extra-curricular activities has proved him worthy. His teachers have acknowledged his hard work and efforts in the classroom.

Waite, the teacher recognized by Litchin, has taught kindergarten through twelfth grade and has been teaching for 21 years, eight of which have been at Homestead.

"I was quite pleased about this and was sure there was some mistake," Waite said. "However, I was very pleased and honored."

> "He has clear goals for himself, and any teacher who has had him in class can clearly see that."
>
> **ELLEN WAITE**
> *Latin Teacher*

Litchin has been a student of Waite's for three years.

"I know that he has had many teachers, coaches and family members that have shaped him," Waite said.

Although she feels she has done nothing extraordinary to receive this honor, she has still influenced him in a way that some of his other teachers have not.

"We are lucky to have him here at Homestead, and I am pleased that I could be a part of his journey," Waite said.

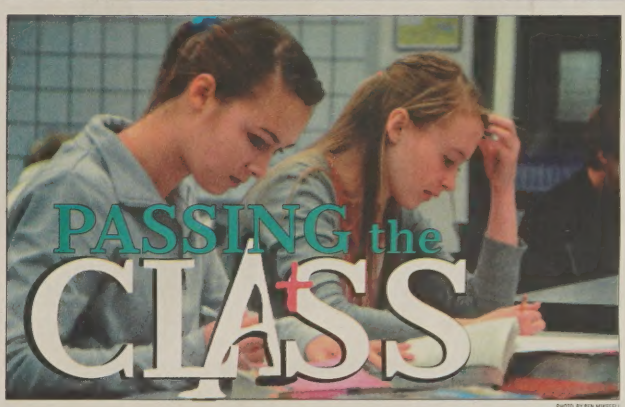


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Passing rates rise due to changes in Seminar program

By Joe Janizek
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Changes to the freshman Seminar program have brought significant improvements in the rate of students passing core classes. Following alterations to the class at the start of the year, first semester pass rates for freshmen increased drastically, in some cases by over 30 percent for especially at-risk students.

Seminar was created in 2005, concurrently with the creation of the 9th Grade Academy. The class aimed to provide an environment similar to study hall, during which students could complete homework, while providing "additional support" as a "primary goal," according to an "Update on Current Initiatives" published on the district website. The additional support was initially provided to students through access to their teachers during the period.

At this start of this school year, however, the format of the class changed, as 10 to 15 students in each of three targeted areas, Biology, English and Algebra, were selected to participate in a new lab-style program, which aimed to be more effective at helping students.

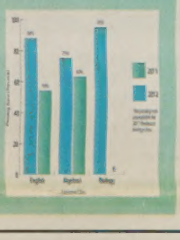
"We felt like we weren't getting as much bang for the buck for our efforts as what we should have," Principal Rick Smith said.

While the former Seminar formulation provided assistance, administrators and teachers decided

▶ SEE 'SEMINAR,' PAGE 2

SOARING SCORES

The percentage of freshmen passing core classes has increased significantly.



Students earn fine art awards

By Laura Zweig
Copy Editor

19 students were awarded Scholastic Arts Awards on Jan. 23. The Scholastic Art Award, founded in 1923, is one of the most prestigious art and writing awards in the country.

This year's award recipients included Rebecca Auger (10),Chenghao Bi (11), Caroline Cooper (12), Rachel Dafforn (12), Alexa Durkes (12), Emma Flaugh (12), Adam Gayer (12), Nina Gerber (10), Rebekah Gutierrez (12), Dana Hart (12), Zach Kittaka (12), Alison Mansfield (11), Ben Mikesell (12), Taylor Moriarty (9), Aly Noble (12), Jiwon Park (11) and Blair Zollinger (12).

Art teacher Sarah Jones had the opportunity to mentor this year's award winners and is well-versed in the rules and regulations of the award.

"The pieces are judged on originality, personal voice and technical quality of work," Jones said.

Three judges per category score the art award while the writing competition is judged online.

With such a variety of categories, the Scholastic Art Award attracts all types of talent.

"I found the competition on the Internet and decided to work on it with my English teacher [Scott] Hill," Park, Silver Key winner for her personal essay, said.

After participating in the Renaissance Ball world history teacher Sara Wyss holds every year for her freshmen block class, Park was interested in learning more about her assigned historical figure, Burmese freedom fighter and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I learned all about her, so I

▶ SEE 'SCHOLASTIC KEY,' PAGE 2

District considers expanding individual laptop program

In the middle schools, each student is individually assigned a computer with which they use to complete in-class projects and other activities. Due to the success of this program at the middle school level, the district is currently debating whether or not to implement the 1:1 computing measure in the high school.

PHOTO BY MARY DISTLER

By Priya Parikh
Copy Editor

In early October of this school year, Woodside Middle School and Summit Middle School adopted the 1:1 technology program, allowing each student to have his or her personal laptop computer during the school day. With a few months having passed from the time of implementation, administrators are assessing feedback about the program.

"So far our students love the program – the feedback from both teachers and parents is almost always positive," Jerry Schillinger, Woodside Middle School Principal, said. "In the morning, students head to the charging room to get each of their laptops. The last three minutes at the end of each day are allotted for students to return to the charging room to charge their computers overnight."

Teachers from Summit Middle School have also displayed positive attitudes regarding the success of the program thus far.

"From my perspective, the response I have been getting is favorable," Joyce Vogley, Computer Information teacher at Summit, said. "I only know of one or two students who don't like carrying around the

▶ SEE 'TECHNOLOGY,' PAGE 2

ATTENTION

Henryville donations collection held this week

Former Henryville High School and current band director Steve Barber is leading the efforts to collect needed supplies to support the tornado-stricken town of Henryville. Items including non-perishable food, diapers, clothing, school supplies, backpacks and others are being collected through 8 pm Friday in the band semi trailer in the front parking lot.

PHOTO BY MARY DISTLER

Human-rights activist to present at history class assembly

World Outside My Shoes founder to speak on time spent providing humanitarian aid in Rwanda

WILKENS' WORK

Wilkens' book *I'm Not Leaving*, in which he recalls his experiences in Rwanda, will be sold before and after school in history teacher Jon Baker's room to raise funds for his visit.

PHOTO FROM WWW.SEATTLEPI.COM

By Tori Barnard
News Editor

Humanitarian Carl Wilkens will speak with World History classes on Apr. 16. Wilkens was the only American who remained in Rwanda to continue providing humanitarian aid during the genocide in 1994.

Approximately 800,000 people perished during the genocide, according to the United Human Rights Council. Although there was no official United States involvement, Wilkens remained in Rwanda during this genocide in order to bring food, water and medicine to orphans, which saved hundreds of lives.

Following his return to the United States, Wilkens created an educational non-profit organization called World Outside My Shoes in which he travels to high schools and universities to create awareness about social injustice and inspire people to stand up against genocide, racism and intolerance.

"World Outside My Shoes is a non-profit educational and professional development organization committed to inspiring and equipping people to enter the world of 'The Other.' 'The Other' may be under our own roof or on the other side of the globe," according to Wilkens' website, worldoutsidemyshoes.org.

There will be an assembly for students in AP World History and World History classes during periods 1 and 2, and Wilkens will spend the rest the day with a question and answer period for other World History classes in the 9th Grade Academy.

"Getting to hear from people who lived it makes a difference," World History teacher Jon Baker said.

▶ SEE 'WILKENS,' PAGE 2

PHOTO FROM WWW.WORLDOUTSIDEMYSHOES.ORG

Carl Wilkens travels the globe to inform others of his experiences in Rwanda.

BRIEFS

AP EXAM REGISTRATION
All registration forms for 2012 AP exams are due to Mrs. Hamilton in Student Services by Tuesday, Mar. 13. If one didn't get them in class this week, he or she can pick up the forms in Student Services.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Student government elections for the 2012-2013 school year are currently underway. All information regarding elections is in student government advisor Jeanine Miller's room, 520.

COLLEGE FAIR
A college fair was held in the cafeteria, and representatives discussed topics regarding admissions and curriculum at their schools. A raffle for a 200 dollar scholarship was held for students.

BOYS' BASKETBALL REGIONALS
The boys' basketball team has advanced to the Regional competition, which will be held on Saturday, Mar. 10. The first game will be at noon against Northrop, the championship will be held at 8 PM.

GIRLS' TENNIS MEETING
The first girls' tennis team meeting will be held in head coach Jim Shull's classroom, 904, on Mar. 12 to discuss general information of the upcoming season. The challenge process will begin the next day.

▶▶SEMINAR CONTINUED FROM 1

that a new initiative was necessary to maximize student potential.

"It wasn't significant enough to impact student outcomes," Smith said. "The new program is more intentional and more impactful."

At-risk freshmen were selected to participate in lab classes during the Seminar period, during which they worked closely with teachers in small groups of 15 or fewer students four or more times a week.

"This has been a very intentional approach to remediation, and a lot of the success has to do with the fact that at grades 9 and 10, classes are co-taught by two teachers, one having a Special Education background," English Department Supervisor Connie Christophersen said.

The impact of the program was immediately apparent as the pass rates for at-risk students skyrocketed. From last school year to this one, first semester pass rates among "pull-out" students improved in English from 54 percent to 88 percent, according to a presentation to the school board regarding the initiative.

Similar improvements among the same group of students were shown in other areas, as first semester pass rates in Algebra improved from 63 percent to 75 percent. Additionally, 95 percent of students participating in the Seminar labs passed their Biology class.

The initiative is anticipated to have an impact at other grade levels as well, as the skills and improvements offered at the freshman level should translate to future success.

"We're hoping to benefit at every grade level and hoping to have as great an impact as we possibly can," Smith said.

Student improvement is due in part to the effectiveness of working directly with their teachers.

"Part of the success is that the lab offers direct support for the class that students are enrolled in, in addition to building basic skills," Christophersen said.

The success was also attributed to the intimate nature of the lab groups.

"Students are also reaping the benefits of the low student to teacher ratio and the more personalized instruction," freshman math teacher Katie Metz said.

Seminar students not selected to participate in the labs now work with student tutors in a smaller group, which gives them improved access to help.

"I act as a resource for the students to get help when they need it. I help the students complete their homework or study guides by working with them to find the information," peer tutor Kyle O'Malley (12) said. "I explain concepts to them if they are struggling to understand something. I also lead small groups of students before their tests and quizzes to help them prepare for them."

O'Malley believes the tutors are able to effectively help students, even when tutors do not have the information students need directly memorized.

"We are usually able to answer the students' questions," O'Malley said. "Even though we don't always immediately know the answer to every question, we are usually able to find the information or work through a problem with a student relatively easily."

Due to the success of the initiative, the administrators and teachers plan to keep the situation the same, for the most part.

"We plan to stay the course with the concept. The biggest change will be in the number of tutors, which we hope to double," Smith said. "That should give us a leg up on helping as many different audiences in Seminar as we possibly can."

One suggested improvement would aim to offer improvements to students over a wider base of skills.

"I would like to see if there is a way that we can better help support students in more than one core subject area," Metz said.

The lab program also is different from previous remediation efforts, in that a larger group of students are eligible to participate in the initiative, whereas before initiatives of this type were limited to select groups of students.

"These new courses are for all students who need assistance," Christophersen said. "Even without an Independent Education Plan, students are still eligible for the class."

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: Coyotes were spotted outside of English teacher Mark Hannon's classroom, which is situated at the west side of the Freshman Academy.

Status: True - Hannon and his English Lab class saw two coyotes recently at about 10:30 in the morning.

"I thought I saw two big dogs, and I thought humans would be following with leashes," Hannon said.

One coyote was red, and the other was grey. They were a male and female pair that loped across the field in the snow through the west-facing soccer fields and headed towards the Environmental Center.

Hannon, who has been in the same room for three years, said that this is his first coyote sighting at Homestead.

Billy Badders (9) was in Hannon's English Lab class and also saw the coyotes. However, he had seen coyotes before, though not on campus, and felt "neutral" and "unthreatened" by the coyotes' presence.

If confronted by a coyote, Officer Ingrid Herriott recommends not touching the coyote and leaving it alone.

"Coyotes don't pose a threat to students, unless students put them in a situation where they are threatened," Herriott said.

While there is no official policy on coyotes, Herriott said that if there was an issue involving coyotes, she would probably be the one called to handle it.

Coyotes are considered wildlife and are under the jurisdiction of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Any injured coyotes are under the jurisdiction of Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control. According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources coyotes are opportunistic foragers that are smaller than a standard collie dog and have canine features. They prefer to eat small mammals but will also eat garbage. They are often spotted at dawn and dusk.

Coyote pups are usually born in spring, so there will likely be an increase in coyote activity in the coming weeks.

▶▶TECHNOLOGY CONTINUED FROM 1

laptops all day, but otherwise, most students enjoy the program."

Students enjoy the availability of technology in order to work on projects at school instead of at home.

"Because PowerPoint and other tools are available to every student now, it becomes a lot easier to work on projects during class," Jessica Carroll, seventh grader at Summit, said.

Due to the positive feedback from the middle schools, Homestead High School is in the process of considering whether to adopt the 1:1 program for the 2012-2013 school year.

"When the middle schools are starting to move forward, obviously it would make sense that the program will end up in the high schools," Steve Lake, Assistant Principal, said. "However, it's a little scary because we're not like the middle schools – we're so much bigger, and there are so many things going on at a big high school like this."

> "Modern technology is now; it's something new on the tool belt that we have to learn and adjust to deal with."
>
> **STEVE LAKE**
> *Assistant Principal*

Although there are many possible issues with the 1:1 program at the high school level, Lake is confident that it will work at the high school level.

"I have talked to some kids that have been in schools that already have laptops, and they say that it's like a tool; it's like a piece of paper and pencil," Lake said. "It's ultimately going to be an adjustment for students, but I don't think it's fair to not do it because of a few issues that we may have."

At Homestead, implementation of the 1:1 program may be as early as next school year. The school board plans on making decisions about the program as early as this month.

Support for the program stems from the idea of the growing necessity for technology use in education.

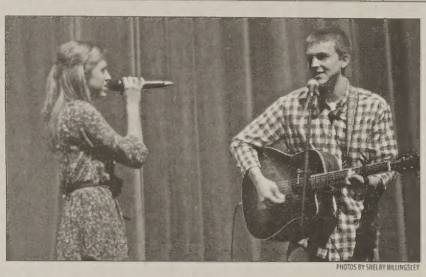
"I don't know how we could ignore this type of program," Lake said. "All of the colleges are this way."

Although the School Board will ultimately make the decision on whether to adopt 1:1 technology program at Homestead, administrators still need both students' and teachers' opinions on the program.

"We need to have input from our teaching staff, but we also need to have input from our students," Lake said. "We want teachers to talk to their students, get some input, and share it with us."

The administration is confident in the usefulness of technology implementation and its effect on students.

"Modern technology is now; it's something new on the tool belt that we have to learn and adjust to deal with," Lake said. "It's a different type of education, and that's the direction we're headed toward."



PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Above: Brian Woolwine (11), Will Reiske (11) and Grant Bassett (11) play the drums. Right: Daymon Osborn (12) and Katie Lehman (12) sing a duet. Bottom: Daniel Harrison (12) sings a cover song.

VARIETY SHOW 2012

By Megan Cater
Writer

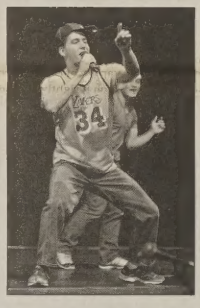
The Variety Show, held on Feb. 29 and Mar. 1, was held two nights rather than one night, due to selling out the one night show in previous years. The Drama Department and Student Government decided that having the show on two nights would allow more students and parents to attend for a five dollar admission.

"For the past three years, we've been selling out for one night so we decided to give an opportunity for more people to come and give the performers two chances to perform," Vicky Malooley, Drama teacher and event coordinator, said. "This will cut down on overcrowding."

Similar to a talent show, the Variety Show is hosted every year by the Drama Department. With different talents and abilities, the Variety Show is an opportunity for students to witness a wide variety of the talents of their fellow classmates; however, there is no "winner" like there is in a talent show.

"The Variety Show is an opportunity for students at HHS to be able to show off the different abilities they have," Malooley said.

By having a two night show, performers were able to improve on their performances from one night to the next.



▶▶WILKENS CONTINUED FROM 1

"There is really nothing we can't change if we put our minds to it."

In addition to his discussions with World History classes, advisory teachers have the option to present PowerPoints and play videos about Wilkens and his experiences.

"[The PowerPoints and videos] will complement options in advisory and will serve as an effective aspect of student development," Barbara Csicsko, advisory coordinator, said.

Much of Wilkens' call for social justice and change is applicable to students' experiences both inside and outside of an educational environment.

"Individuals willing to say no is how change starts," Baker said. "We can learn how we as individuals can do things to combat social injustice, such as bullying, that we see on a daily basis."

Members of the advisory committee cite the importance that all students hear Wilkens' message to combat social injustice, even if they are not enrolled in a World History course.

"Being a citizen is more than existing; becoming a literate citizen means understanding social justice from around the world, and we hope that Mr. Wilkens will provide an avenue to understand global citizenry," Chris Riley, district Literacy coordinator and advisory committee member, said.

Because he is a primary resource, Wilkens will provide students with a different outlet for learning about social injustice in the world other than through a textbook.

"A lot of what students learn from comes from a secondary source. This is a primary resource, which will be more profound and elicit an emotional connection and response," Riley said.

Prior to Wilkens' visit, signed copies of his book entitled I'm Not Leaving, in which he details his experiences in Rwanda, will be sold by Baker before and after school for 15 dollars. The money raised will benefit Wilkens' organization and his visit.

Wilkens will also participate in the Allen County Public Library's Perspectives Series on Apr. 16 from 6-9 pm, alongside other genocide survivors from the Holocaust and genocide in Burma.

"It's important for students to realize that we are here to serve each other even at Homestead High School," Mike Gorman, district 1:1 initiative coordinator and advisory committee member, said. "Reflection on it will make students ask 'Where can I make a difference in my own community?'"

▶▶SCHOLASTIC KEY CONTINUED FROM 1

wanted to make a difference with the Burmese community in Fort Wayne. I started volunteering and tutoring Burmese people," Park said. "I wrote about Aung San Suu Kyi's experience and how she inspired me."

Gayer won four awards, including a Gold Key in Art Portfolio, Gold Key in Painting, Silver Key in Mixed Media and Honorable Mention in Mixed Media.

"I heard about [the Scholastic Art Award] from Mrs. Jones and how it has been around for a long time," Gayer, who has been entering since his freshman year, said. "There have been mentions about the program in art magazines, so I just thought I'd go for it and give it a try."

The key to winning an award is not just talent but also selecting the right pieces.

"I did a portfolio which was eight of my best pieces and then I submitted five single ones too. I tried to pick a variety of media." Gayer said. "I wanted them to see a broadness of my work."

With so many entries, it's important to stand out among the rest. According the Journal Gazette, 2,181 pieces were entered in the art category alone.

While the regional competition is in its 27th year, according to regional director Max Meyer in an interview with the Journal Gazette, the national competition has been honoring outstanding artist for 89 years. Famous past recipients include Andy Warhol, Sylvia Plath, Truman Capote, Robert Redford and Zac Posen.

Jones herself won when she was in high school for Graphic Art.

"My art teacher had won a grant to buy one of the first versions of Photoshop, so I taught myself to use it," Jones said.

For some, winning this award is validation of their hard efforts.

"It makes me feel happy about being an artist. It makes me want to continue on and keep doing art. It justifies all the time I do spend on art," Gayer said. "It's kind of a pat on the back to tell me to keep it up and keep going. I know it's not just a hobby."

The winners were honored at a ceremony at the Grand Wayne center on Feb. 12.

PHOTO BY ALISON MANSFIELD

Above: Gold Key awards were given to artists who received exceptional distinction in the competition. Gold Key winners include Emma Flaugh (12), Adam Gayer (12), Zack Kittaka (12), Alexis Shade (12) Allson Mansfield (11) and Rebecca Auger (10).

▶▶2181
number of pieces submitted for the art category of the Scholastic Key Award

*the*SPARTANA
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The Spartana is a bi-weekly production of Student Publications: Newspaper at Homestead High School. Its purpose is to enlighten, educate, and entertain. The Spartana has, and may continue to, operate as a limited open forum for the free exchange of ideas.

Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com

PHOTO FROM WWW.GIRLSCOUTS.ORG

Bob Morris accuses Girl Scouts of being pro-choice lesbians

By Colton Shaffer
Copy Editor

Without a doubt, the image of young, snot-nosed girls waiting to ambush unsuspecting shoppers outside every other supermarket is as American as apple pie. The inevitable purchase of boxes upon boxes of sweets strikes fear into most who see the bashful saleswomen peddling their yearly wares: delicious cookies with the added sweetness of knowing a majority of the proceeds go directly to supporting local Girl Scout troops. Indiana Representative and staunchly conservative Bob Morris sees a very different picture: one where the insidious schemes and vindictive facades of thousands of little girls everywhere directly feed Planned Parenthood's abortion program, sex education programs and occult groups advocating the secret, malicious homosexual agenda.

Something is rotten in the state of Indiana when a man as abysmally misinformed and logically backwards as Morris can be elected to public office. His outright verbal attack against the Girl Scouts should weaken the faith of every constituent who voted for him and give them just cause to wonder if a petition for his resignation is in order.

It is frightening to think that he was the only representative to vote against the House resolution recognizing the Girl Scouts of America on their 100th anniversary because of his willingness to believe anything he finds on the Internet.

This is yet another example in a long, sad train of actions by ridiculously conservative legislators and leaders who testify to their unreasonable fears of changing the status quo. It is their wish that America return to its 1950s values where every woman knew her place was in the home and homosexuality and even "the talk" with children on the cusp of adolescence did not exist.

It is time for a wake up call. Morris's socially conservative view of lesbian, abortionist Girl Scouts is anachronistic. With the vicissitudes of life comes the ever-forward march of progress that cannot–and should not–be stopped. Society has become less restrictive since the days of Eisenhower: alternate lifestyles do exist, abortions are necessary procedures and sexual education programs are nothing but beneficial. These are facts that must be accepted, regardless of how some hidebound legislators feel.

Morris, however, retains a shred of humanity. He issued a statement of apology to the Girl Scouts of America but still maintains his initial stance and refuses to sign the resolution.

Though the general public will censure Morris for quite a while because of this fiasco, this is America, and everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. Morris, along with other conservatives, may uphold his decision, but to the rest of the rational nation, this is just a sad case of misinformed decision making.

> "This is just a sad case of misinformed decision making."
>
> **COLTON SHAFFER**

However, perhaps pointing fingers at misinformed politicians is not the lesson to take away from this. Perhaps this should just be remembered as the reason that making informed decisions when in positions of power is so important.

More than anything, this should be the reason why letting personal beliefs and fictional stigmas get in the way of running a legislative body is so dangerous. No one should be so grounded in his political persuasion as to ignore reason.

Potential 1:1 technology plan leaves little room for optimism

The arrival of new technology at Homestead has always been something of a challenge. This school has never been particularly up-to-date on its technology and has historically been slow to accept many beneficial changes. Nevertheless, the administration has been considering a new ploy called 1:1 Technology, in which every student will receive a laptop from the school to replace textbooks and other onerous, paper-consuming handouts.

While it is supposed to make the students' and teachers' lives easier by reducing the amount of hard copies of handouts and homework that endlessly pass between them, the scheme's cons outweigh its pros. No school is overly liberal with its budget, and an upgrade of laptops for every student is costly to say the least. The cost makes for a strong argument against its justification and begs the question why the school doesn't instead invest in something more worthwhile such as new desktops in the computer labs or smart boards in every room.

Learning facilitated through online work may be more in tune with the trends of the time, but there is no accounting for the instructors. While students may be technologically savvy, there are few teachers who use the Internet and online work to its full potential simply because they do not wish to learn how to incorporate it into their curriculum, or it is simply not very applicable in that specific setting. Take, for example, a basic chemistry class. The sudden presence of laptops for every student would do little to change the fact that the best way to learn is still simply to conduct the actual lab rather than watching any virtual demonstration.

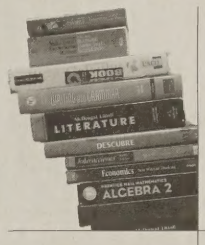
One-to-One Technology is no reductive solution; in fact, it only makes for more complex problems in the ways of general discipline, especially in policing Internet access. If students are allowed possession of laptops they themselves did not directly pay for, and they are allowed access to it for potentially 24 hours a day, they will find ways to get around any blocks or prohibitions installed by the administration with little regard for the laptop's welfare. The availability of this technology would give the students the perfect opportunity to essentially hack their own laptops and make Homestead a new haven for cyber crimes and misdemeanors.

More than anything, school is about teaching students how to develop and use their resources, the accessibility of which will not determine a student's work ethic nor his or her quality of work. The administration should think about the ramifications of their decision before they unintentionally create a generation of computer hackers.

The Ed Board

Ryan Boylan *Joe Laughlin*
Mary Distler *Tori Barnard*
Joe Janizek *Clair Pranger*

{The Bottom Line} *The ineffectiveness of the 1:1 technology plan negates its few potential benefits by highlighting more feasible solutions.*



academic OVERLOAD

Amount of work becoming too much for students

By Clair Pranger
Opinion Co-Editor

The student handbook is the arch nemesis of all free-thinking souls and out-of-the-box personalities at Homestead, providing rules and regulations for everything from mandatory vaccinations to appropriate school attire. While students may grouse and groan about why there is an exact need for shorts to be fingertip length, there is another, much bigger threat that slips by virtually unnoticed.

Homestead prides itself on its variety of rigorous courses available for selection–of which it rightly should be– but that desire for rigor in students' curricula allows some teachers to abuse the system.

Much like the Elastic Clause of the Constitution, the adherence to rigor permits some teachers to bog down their students with a veritable mountain of homework each night. AP and honors teachers are some of the worst offenders. They claim it is for the good of the student or that because the homework is assigned to an honors or AP class, students can take the extra homework. Regardless of the amount of intellectually strenuous classes a student is taking, he or she will never welcome more homework.

It is understandable that more homework is all part and parcel of the whole genie gig, but only to an extent. If students must sacrifice weekends to work on homework or stay up past midnight on successive nights just to finish assignments, they are being assigned too much. Most AP students will say there has rarely been a night with less than two hours of homework per advanced class.

This is not a problem specific to Homestead, either. Several school districts across the country realize that their students have too much homework and are adopting the "ten minute rule" as a new standard.

Created by Duke University Psychology Professor Harris Cooper, the rule states very simply that students should get ten minutes of homework a night per grade. For example, a first grader would have at most ten minutes a night; a high school senior would have a maximum of 120 minutes a night. There are those at Homestead who suffer with more than twice that amount every night.

It is time for the administration to wake up and take a look around. Rather than be blindly, even willingly, cozened into thinking that more homework means better grades and higher test scores, they should focus on the teaching policy that is in dire need of a complete revamping.

Teachers are as much to blame, if not more so, for they have settled into their comfortable ruts of complacently doing what they think is enough and then just assigning the rest as homework. If a student is going to struggle in class on a certain chemistry packet, what makes them think the student will have a sudden epiphany at home that will allow him or her to complete it?

One of Homestead's core values is to "achieve the 'greatest amount of success per student,'" but success is not measured by the amount of homework given for a certain class. The success of the students is entirely dependent on the teachers' willingness to present information in a new way that gets kids excited about learning.

Rigor, perhaps, needs a new definition that focuses less on exhausting students with excessive homework and more on being thorough in the classroom with new and inventive ways to teach worn out concepts.

BY THE NUMBERS

According to TIME magazine, a 2004 University of Michigan study showed that the amount of time spent on homework has **increased by 51 percent** since 1981. The majority of work comes when kids are at the **ages 6 to 8**. In 1981, they did **only 52 minutes** of work, but put in around **128 minutes of time for school by 1997**. Surprisingly, this workload is associated with lower test scores.

LEFT AND WRITE: No Child Left Behind waivers draw scrutiny as deadline approaches

Black and white approach to evaluation is harmful

By Ryan Boylan
Opinion Co-Editor

Historically, aggressive means have been necessary in catalysing needed change. Civil rights laws have assuaged generations of racial tensions, and affirmative action has diminished the economic gap between previously oppressed demographics. And as unrealistic as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) has proven to be, it has had an undeniable positive effect on the overall state of the country's secondary educational system. The achievement gap between white majority students and minorities has decreased in magnitude since 1999, the percentage of classes taught by highly qualified teachers has risen to well over 90 and federal funding for education has increased by over $10 billion since the law first took effect.

But as 2014–the deadline for 100 percent student proficiency in math and reading–approaches, a need for reform is long past due. Not only is it, for all practical purposes, bureaucratically impossible for all students to meet their grade-level standards, it is also a superfluous hindrance to math and English teachers who must develop a curriculum around the seemingly arbitrary skills demanded by state standardized multiple-choice tests rather than a curriculum more accommodating to individual students and classes.

Indiana, one of the few states that has recently received a waiver from meeting the 2014 deadline, now faces the question of how to replace the previously mandated standardized testing with a more efficient and less restrictive method. But due to the vast increase in average teacher qualifications and subsequent student success since the implementation of NCLB, it is no longer even necessary to harshly afflict schools with up to two or three benchmark tests throughout the school year. The main focus at this point should be sustaining the academic growth that has already been stimulated rather than squandering the fledgling success of NCLB by hastily coercing schools to comply with unreasonable guidelines.

While student performance and uniformity in course material are important to an extent, focus should shift from the monochromatic approach of student-evaluation to encompass the qualifications of teachers as well. Because not only is it much simpler to create a more uniform and specific curriculum for teachers to follow than it is to threaten teachers whose students do poorly on benchmark tests for any number of reasons with termination, it is also more conducive to a free, unrestricted learning environment that is not detained by the looming fear of ominous and foreboding standardized tests.

Granting waivers undermines programs' intentions

By Shannon Nycum
Writer

When I picture a normal school morning, I see myself entering the hallways scattered with cliques. Cliques are everywhere; everyone is with someone like them. These groups of students and their values of education are what define Homestead, but the No Child Left Behind act that is weakening the nation's educational system.

When former President George W. Bush enacted the No Child Left Behind law, his hopes were to improve schools with mainly underprivileged students by 2014 in reading and mathematics. As the deadline approaches, schools are still providing annual testing to see whether or not their students are fulfilling the academic requirements for their respective grade levels. Unfortunately, not all schools reach their target scores and are providing alternatives for their students failing to do well on the tests. "Failing" schools must allow their students to transfer to other schools, which only worsens other schools that are accepting these "failing students." The annual tests are designed for native English-speaking students to do well enough to pass, and all students are being taught at the same pace. Obama has failed to consider those with disabilities, or those who are not entirely familiar with the English language. No Child Left Behind does not improve the educational systems, and Indiana is among the several states asking Obama for a waiver.

Obama is weakening his status as a president who can enforce laws by granting states waivers. The No Child Left Behind policy should have been amended by the states if Obama truly wanted to see improvements in education. The policy's rules are too unrealistic; by not reaching their targets, schools are negatively labeled, staff members may need to be replaced and, in some cases, schools must be shut down.

Obama needs to help schools by focusing more on the individual student. All students, whether they value education or not, are combined and judged on whether or not their school has successfully taught its students to pass the annual tests. Obama only cares that students pass standardized tests, when instead he should work to ensure that students are driven to go above and beyond.

The idea of No Child Left Behind helping all students seems nice; but it is up to the individual student if he wants to be on grade-level reading and mathematics. Obama should not pressure schools and their staffs that now need waivers for a plan that was destined to fail.

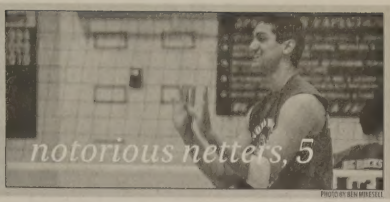


PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Rittenhouse chosen for Youth Leadership Fort Wayne

Each year two sophomores are selected as representatives for the Youth Leadership Fort Wayne program, which works to build a younger generation of leaders in the community. Patrick Rittenhouse (10) sits down with the Spartana to discuss his experiences with the group.

PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Spartana: What is YLFW? What is the purpose of the program?

Rittenhouse: YLFW is a program for sophomores in the Fort Wayne area school systems who display leadership characteristics. It's hard to sum up the purpose of the program into just one sentence but if I were to do so I would say that YLFW focuses on expanding our leadership qualities and making them more applicable to everyday life and to instill in the participants a commitment to community service.

Spartana: How do you become chosen for one of the two spots for Homestead?

Rittenhouse: To become chosen you must be nominated by one or more staff members at your school. There are two spots for Homestead so Mr. Anderson, the representative of YLFW for Homestead, generally chooses one boy and one girl to represent the school.

Spartana: How do you qualify for the program?

Rittenhouse: You must display leadership characteristics (character, commitment, communication, courage, problem solving, respect, responsibility, servanthood, team building, and vision) amongst your peers not only at school, but outside of school as well. You must also achieve a high enough GPA that shows that you are a committed student and can afford to miss school on the days of YLFW meetings.

Spartana: What type of activities do people in YLFW participate in for the program?

Rittenhouse: There are several activities we participate in including lots of teambuilding activities, socratic seminars, guest speakers, a community service project, and many more.

Spartana: What has been the best part so far and why?

Rittenhouse: I've really enjoyed meeting and getting to know all of the other participants in YLFW. We all seem to get along real well and I think that's because we all have a lot in common, yet we all come from different backgrounds so there is a lot of diversity amongst us as well. It has been really cool to get to know all of the members of YLFW because I probably never would have met these people had I not been nominated for the program.

Spartana: What do you think will come out of this experience?

Rittenhouse: I think I will learn a lot about what a true leader in the community really is and how I can expand on my leadership skills and hopefully fulfill that position.

Spartana: What do the representatives from the different schools have in common?

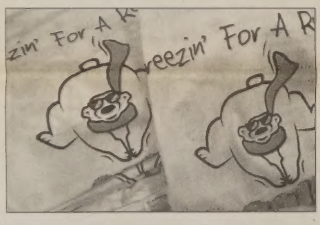
Rittenhouse: We all exhibit leadership qualities and are around the same age because all of us are sophomores at our respective schools. YLFW participants are also very accepting of one another, no matter who you are or what your interests are.

Rittenhouse (10) was picked as the male representative of the school in YLFW.

PHOTOS BY ALISON MANSFIELD

Freezin' for a Reason

Special Olympics hosts annual Polar Plunge at Parkview Field to raise competition funds



Top: Participants plunged into a dumpster instead of Mirror Lake, where it is normally held. Above: T-shirts were sold as an additional fundraiser. Right: Local country rock band Sugar Shot played to support the cause.

▶▶16

degrees Fahrenheit was the temperature of this year's plunge which was moved from Mirror Lake to temporary dumpsters at Parkview Field.

BY ALISON MANSFIELD
Feature Editor

An industrial-sized dumpster brimming with frigid water enveloped over 210 altruistic thrill-seekers this weekend at Fort Wayne's fourth annual Polar Plunge for Special Olympics.

The event, part of a nationwide Special Olympics campaign, generates funds to defray the costs associated with making organized sports and other programs accessible to special needs athletes.

"I'm able-bodied, but [people with special needs] don't have the freedom to participate in the same activities easily," three-year plunger Katherine Troutman (11) said. "The best part [about plunging] is that you can have a ton of fun while helping other people too."

To participate, plungers are asked to raise a minimum of fifty dollars which supports the Special Olympics organization and, in Fort Wayne, lowers the cost of sending Special Olympics athletes to the summer games in Terre Haute, Indiana.

"[My favorite part of the plunge is watching] the crowd pull together to celebrate the reason they are there and why they raised the dollars they did," Julia Fiechter, coordinator of the Polar Plunge and founder of Lendingahand.net, said. "No athlete pays to play; our community pulls together to make sure this program exists."

Following registration, participants view an opening ceremony in which Special Olympics athletes receive a torch from Fort Wayne police officers, recite the Special Olympics oath and sing the national anthem.

"Many people view special needs kids as not being able to do anything," Hannah Fiechter (11), veteran plunger and team captain, said. "[The Polar Plunge and Special Olympics] give them the opportunity to participate in something that makes them feel 'normal' and 'important'."

And Special Olympics athletes are important as they occupy center stage at this event--these brave, enthusiastic athletes are the Polar Plunge stars. Their enthusiasm electrifies those who come to support their cause.

However, silly, unconventional, and meaningful team costumes also add color and importance to the event. This year, one team's costume choice made a memorable and heartfelt statement, as students and family members plunged in honor of late Homestead alum, Alex Moran.

Sydney Moran (11), Amethyst Evis-ton (11), Trevor Stanley (11), Isabella Betancourt (11), Cam Hladish (11), Rosie Schroeder (11), Morgan Gast (11), Kelley Davis (10), Courtney Rawlinson (10) and Beth Griffith (10) were among nineteen plungers who donned t-shirts commemorating Alex's passing.

> The best part [about plunging] is that you can have a ton of fun while helping other people too."
>
> **KATE TROUTMAN (11)**
> *Three Time Plunger*

"We were all really excited [to plunge for Alex], especially since the mayor agreed to wear one of his shirts too," Hannah Fiechter said. "It was really cool that he jumped in remembrance with us."

While Team Moran plunged in honor of Alex, other teams plunged for different reasons.

All teams plunge to support Special Olympics; however, the chance to be zany, dress in unique costumes, and hang out with friends is always an additional bonus.

"I have so many great memories of dressing up with my friends for the plunge," Troutman said. "Our first year, we dressed in bright colors, leggings and crazy pony tails, the next year we dressed up in old-lady nightgowns, and this year we dressed in Hawaiian shirts and fanny packs."

Over the years, other costumes have included the Smurfs, superheroes, wild animals, Hawaiian hula dancers and Angry Birds.

"People who come out in their bathing suits crack me up," event coordinator Julia Fiechter said. "It's so cold!"

And at a biting 16˚F this year, for many, the paralyzing cold was exactly what made the Polar Plunge so irresistible.

"There are five emotional stages during the Polar Plunge," Troutman said. "First, excitement, as you register and take in the crowd. Second, anxiety, as you wait for your turn to plunge and continually ask yourself 'why in the world did I sign up for this?' Third, anger, as you stand on the edge of the platform and hate yourself for what you're about to do. Fourth, clarity. When you hit the water the cold is so shocking you don't think or feel anything. And fifth, excitement. The adrenaline rush from the cold trumps everything else; it is so much fun!"

This year, this fun-filled and mission-driven event raised over $30,000. As dedicated plungers cried "Carpe Freez-um," special-needs athletes felt the support Special Olympics provides.

"I believe in [the program] we provide for our athletes. They gain confidence and skill and are surrounded by those who encourage them to work hard for what their best can be---not to dismiss [their best] for what it's not." Julia Fiechter said. "Those who become a part of our program come as friends and choose to stay because we become a family."

Engineering students build structures out of cans

BY LIZ HUMENSKY
Writer

As the usual crowd of spring shoppers converge on Glenbrook Mall during the third week of this April, they will discover something different about the hallways that they walk. Structures made of creatively arranged cans will stand in between the mall's shops, all from the nonprofit nation-wide organization Canstruction.

"Canstruction is a national design competition in which participating teams design and build large structures completely out of food cans," project leader Jason Ivanovic (11) said. "These structures are then displayed in Glenbrook Mall for the public to view. After the end of the viewing period they are then taken down and donated to Fort Wayne's Community Harvest Food Bank."

The large structures are usually composed of several hundred to several thousand cans of food. These structures can replicate many real-life objects and areas; some examples include sandwiches, famous buildings, weather situations, Egyptian pharaohs and even giant mugs.

These creations are constructed by teams of people who are led by a professional in construction and/or design, such as architects, designers or professors. The teams, whether they be students, club members, or office workers, then have to go out and get donations of money or cans from local businesses or schools to be able to build their structure before deciding on their design.

Students enrolled in the Civil Engineering and Architecture classes are pitching in to help build this year's structure. There are also several other high schools in the area competing for the top prize.

"The theme for our structure has to do with team spirit. We chose to build The Fort is because it represented the town, and to be a sport for Fort Wayne, and to show team spirit for Fort Wayne and Homestead," builder Park Licklitter (11) said.

The group needed to collect large amounts of cans in order to have the large amount of materials necessary to build the models.

"We're doing a combo of the food drive we did in February, and we're reaching out to area businesses and such for donations," student helper Veronika Grote (10) said.

Once everything is built and ready to show to the public, judges come in throughout the day and give out awards to the structures who they deem to be extraordinary in design. Some of the awards given out are Best Meal, Structural Ingenuity, 1st and 2nd Honorable Mention, Best Use of Theme and Most Cans.

According to student participant Adam Peters (11), there are many rules involved in the competition. Structures are limited to being 10 feet wide, 10 feet long and 8 feet high. The designers usually use between a couple hundred cans and a couple thousand. The food has to be donated and labels are required on all the cans. The cans cannot be dented, spoiled or opened.

The school has competed for five out of the six years that Canstruction has been in Fort Wayne, and all the food collected for the structures go to the city's Community Harvest Food Bank.

"This is a good design challenge for the students and a great way to help fight hunger in our area," Engineering and Technology Education teacher Mr. Lines said.

HOW IT WORKS

In 1992, Canstruction began in New York with the intention of donating food to those in need. Designers, businesses, architects and schools participate to benefit their local food bank by building structures out of cans. Canstruction raised over 2 million pounds of food nationwide last year, which is enough to provide 1.5 million meals for food banks.

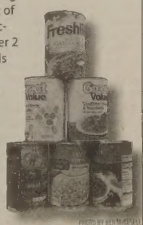


PHOTO BY BEN MARSELL

Student self-help book to fix the habits of the "Highly Ineffective"

ALISONWONDERLAND

BY ALISON MANSFIELD
Feature Editor

"Self-Help" isn't a bookstore aisle I normally frequent, but whenever I walk into Barnes & Noble, Steven Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" is always in plain sight.

Personally, I have not read Mr. Covey's masterpiece, but according to Amazon.com, its "penetrating insights" and "pointed anecdotes" will undoubtedly transform me into a dignified human being. Golly, I'm missing out.

Being the highly ineffective and degenerate teenager I am, the younger Sean Covey's book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens," has been recommended to me several times. So, I read it. And let me tell you, when I finished, I fell to my knees, turned my eyes skyward and wept, for such was the beauty and power of Mr. Covey's insight. Sort of. I wouldn't say it's "Chicken Soup for the Organizational Soul," but it's definitely worth a read.

But seriously, how rude! To imply that we are in need of any level of guidance! Uh, news flash, buddy– we know everything. Adults these days... What's so great about being effective anyway? Didn't that Kaiser Chiefs song tell us "it's cool to know nothing?" What we really need is an anecdotal guide on how to epically fail. So, (although this might be considered an "effective" habit), I've taken some initiative. Homestead, I give you The 7 Habits of Highly Ineffective People: How to Always Be #Winning:

Habit #1: Life is a Worst-Case Scenario: When working with others, the best way to gain respect is to voice your concerns about everything that could possibly go wrong. Your group wants you to make a PowerPoint? Your computer might spontaneously combust. Your mom wants you to get the mail? You could get a paper cut and bleed to death.

Habit #2: Stick to the Bare Necessities: That's right, folks. Disney's dancing bear had it right. Never do anything more than what's asked of you; I like to think of requirements more as goals, or helpful suggestions. If the same kid who starred in "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" agreed to act in "The Art of Getting By," he must be on to something, right? He's British!

Habit #3: Procrasti–eh, Later: I was going to discuss the benefits of procrastination, but I would have to write without sounding lazy... no one likes a hypocrite... Alison, please. Man vs. Food is on– priorities! You're going to be more creative tomorrow anyway. Take it from the President of the Procrasti-Nation: it'll get done.

Habit #4: REACT. BIG TIME: Anyone hear the one about Steven Slater? In a fit of rage, this JetBlue flight attendant cussed out an entire plane via intercom, quit, activated the airplane's inflatable emergency slide, exited the jet and fled across the tarmac. Why? A passenger was rude to him. That's how it's done.

Habit #5: Blame Everything on Your Surroundings: Most kids end up breaking windows with a baseball or something normal, but being the hipster I am, at twelve, athletically-fueled destruction was a little too mainstream for me. I managed to break our basement window with a riding lawnmower. Regardless of my well-founded plea "but, but–it just took off," sadly, Dad didn't buy that no one could have stopped that train. What a fool. It's not like it had a brake or anything.

> "But seriously, how rude! To imply that we are in need of any level of guidance! Uh, newsflash, buddy. We know everything."
>
> **ALISON MANSFIELD**

Habit #6: Never Thank ANY-ONE: Human beings are commodities; you should always go around acting like it's their honor to serve you. Talking to the greasy guy handing over your Big Mac is below you; it's not like he could pull a JetBlue and assault you with sesame seeds. People are Kleenex: flimsy, disposable and there to clean your mess.

Habit #7: Act Like You Know Everything: Example? Read my columns.

For those of you who aren't great with sarcasm, I jest. You know, there have been hundreds of books published containing stories about what stupid things toddlers, disgruntled employees and (sigh) even teenagers do. They're usually written by an authority on the subject–a mother, a human resource manager or a teacher.

These books are hilarious; but in truth, all you need to do to have a chuckle at good-ol-fashioned human folly is walk through your door...or the gaping hole that used to be my window.

However, if literature is not the best way to uncover the idiot within us all, I don't know what is.

In short, watch it. You could end up in my novel.

Volleyball competition joins Just Because Week

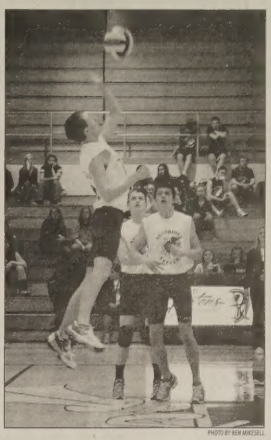


PHOTO BY BEN MAESELL

Max Silcox (11) strikes a ball in the inaugural Notorious Netters tournament as his teammates Chris Robinson (11) and Ben Haberly (11) look on hopefully.

BY WILLIAM NGO
Writer

This Just Because Week, girls were not the only ones playing intramural sports. On Feb. 27, the first Notorious Netters competition, the male volleyball equivalent of Dirty Ducker, was held. Despite its recent creation, the crowd turnout was greater than expected.

"The goal was to create a week of events for all students to attend or participate in," business teacher Jeanie Miller said.

Last year, to allow boys' athletic participation in Just Because Week, the Sailing Spartans competition was introduced. Participants had to construct a boat out of cardboard that would transport them across the Summit Middle School pool. However, there was still a desire for a proactive boys' athletic event.

The rules are similar to those of Dirty Duckers, with teams of six people competing with other members of their grade. After players win several rounds against members of their grade, games between juniors and seniors begin. With few exceptions, the rules of the Notorious Netters competition are similar to the rules of traditional volleyball.

To improve their performance, several participants relied upon both good luck rituals and team bonding. For instance, Jack Hagedorn (11) said that in order to maintain his confidence, he wore his lucky Scooby-Doo undergarment.

"I think [Notorious Netters] was a great idea because we have always had Dirty Duckers," Hagedorn, a member of the Notorious Netters team Frosty, said. "Finally, guys get to do something similar."

Despite Hagedorn's precautions, the team Big Blocks won the first Notorious Netters volleyball tournament. After three rounds of competitive play, the team of seniors played in the final championship game and won with a final score of 25-14.

"The best moment of the night was obviously the win," Loran Saggu, Big Blocks member, said. "It was epic."

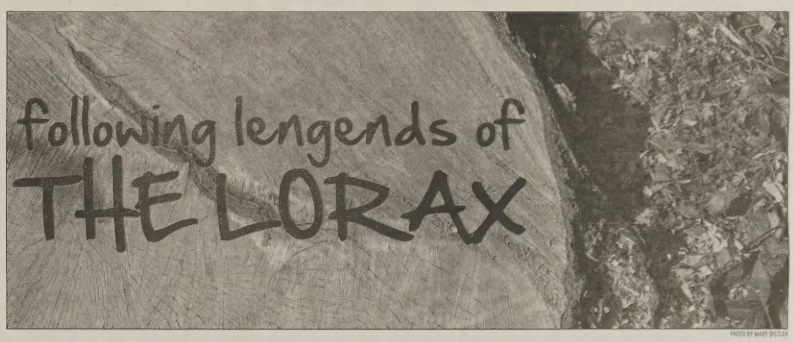


PHOTO BY MARY DITTLER

Club aims to promote environmentally friendly lifestyles

BY DANI CASTONZO AND LAURA ZWEIG
Life Editor and Copy Editor

It's not easy being green, but members of the newly-reinstated Lorax Club are working to make helping the environment a conventional practice.

"I was simply a facilitator," club sponsor and Environmental Science teacher Stephanie Merkling said. "One of my AP students, Monica Dollive (11), approached me with the interest to commence the club activities once more, so it has been very student-driven."

According to Merkling, the purpose of the reestablished club is to spread awareness about living a "green" lifestyle. Any student interested in environmental efforts is welcome to join the group, which meets every other Wednesday after school in Merkling's room.

Dollive, a self-professed "tree hugger," said that she sought a way to connect with other ecofriendly students.

"There are a lot of students at Homestead who care about the environment," Dollive said. "I really wanted to have a community of people who could work together to help the environment and make Homestead a better place."

Currently, the club is making bracelets from recycled pop tabs, which will soon be sold in the cafeteria and in Merkling's room for $1.50. The funds will go toward a tree planting in the spring for student environmentalists.

Most Lorax Club participants come from Merkling's AP Environmental Science class.

"We just want to get together to have a fun time learning and sharing ideas of how to be more 'green' in our daily lives," Merkling said.

The Lorax Club is a revival of the former Environmental Club, once a staple in the world of after school activities. Former Environmental Science teacher and current substitute teacher Doug Waldman was involved in the founding of the original club and in the creation of the Environmental Center.

"One of the keys to protecting the environment is the younger generation," Waldman said. "If they take interest in it, they'll pass it on to their siblings and friends and keep it going to the next generation."

Through the years, the Environmental Science curriculum has changed, and stricter guidelines no longer permit as many hands-on activities.

"We did a lot of work with field trips during the school day and during the summer where students could see different jobs with the environment," Waldman said. "There was a lot of first hand experience– you see it and you do it. Now it's a lot harder to do that."

Because the club was already school-sponsored from Waldman's days, Student Government did not have to approve it again. However, other student organizations are also working to promote environmental protection. For example, to give students the opportunity to recycle plastic bottles, Student Government recently added recycling bins to the cafeteria. Recycling bins are also available in many classrooms to promote the reuse of paper.

Although these opportunities to protect the environment are available, some students choose not to take advantage of them.

"It's sad that people don't use the recycling cans," James Chen (11) said. "They're there, but people always throw aluminum cans in the trash."

While the school's updates to its recycling program are helping the problem, the city of Fort Wayne has not solved it.

"Fort Wayne does a decent job of recycling, but there is always more that can be done," Waldman said.

The name of the club was inspired by Dr. Seuss' children's book The Lorax, which was recently made into a movie. The book shows the negative effects on the environment of cutting down trees, and it chronicles the efforts of the Lorax to stop the destruction of the environment.

"Dr. Seuss' 'The Lorax' was inspiring because it showed how one person can make a difference in helping the environment," Dollive said.

Although the road ahead may prove daunting, club members are optimistic about the future.

"I'm looking forward to saving the world one step at a time," Lorax Club member Kaleb Schlatter (11) said.

MEET MONICA

Name: Monica Dollive
Why she founded Lorax Club: Dollive wanted to form a community of students all interested in helping the environment.
Favorite line from "The Lorax:" "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing's going to get better, it's not."
Tip for going green: Even if it's just turning off the lights when leaving a room, every time it saves more energy.

PHOTO BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Student DJs face off to earn coveted radio air time slot

BY COLBY SHOUP
Writer

When the school radio station first aired in 1995, it was an interesting and innovative idea for a high school to broadcast its own station. Now, in the year 2012, The Point 91.1 (WCYT) continues to bring innovation to the airwaves as the host of the school's first student DJ Face Off.

Fort Wayne's only alternative rock station held this contest between its current Friday afternoon DJ Rich Matera (10) (known as DJ Richy Rich on air) and Alec Pena (9) (known as DJ AJ on air) to decide who would host the Friday afternoon show.

The face-off began at 2:35 on Friday, Feb. 3, but voting was open the entire week. A total of 516 listeners went to The Point's website (wcyt.org) to vote for their favorite student DJ. The two DJs were neck and neck for the duration of the polling, but in the end DJ Richy Rich beat out DJ AJ with a final tally of 262 to 254.

"The polls were close every time I checked," station head Adam Schenkel said. "I think both had leads of about 25 at most."

Even though he lost the face off, Pena continues to be an active member of the WCYT team, going on constantly Mondays through Thursdays.

"I put a lot of quick wit humor in my show that makes people laugh and enjoy it," Pena said. "I put a lot of detail into it about weather, sports, news, politics and I'll even invite people to come on my show once in a while."

As the winner of the face-off, Matera continues to broadcast his show "Power Hour" every Friday starting at 2:35.

▶▶516
votes were cast by listeners to determine a winner to the competition.

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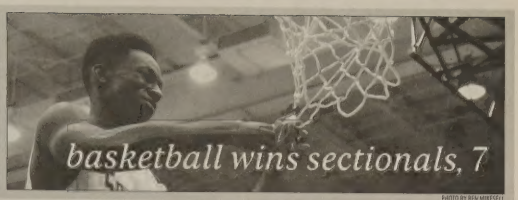


PHOTO BY BEN MIRESELL

Hockey team captures third consecutive city championship

By Lauren Purlee
Writer

The boys' hockey team beat Leo High School 9-1 in the city championship to prove the validity of an outstanding season.

The team captured the championship behind captain John Van Gessel (12), who scored three goals. Other scorers included Paul Lee (11), Adam Limina (12), and Max Dvorak (11).

"It was awesome winning every regular season game and then a third consecutive city title," Lee said.

With this victory, Homestead solidified its position as one of the top teams in the state. The team collectively scored 124 goals over the course of the season, and only allowed 20 goals to be scored against it.

Prior to reaching the championship, the Spartans defeated Carroll High School 5-2 in the city semi-finals Saturday, Feb. 25. Adam Limina (12) had three of the team's five goals, while Lee and Elliot Swayze (10) each had one.

"It was a lot of good, hard teamwork stuff," Lee said.

In years past, the Chargers and Spartans had always been the top two teams in the league. However, after losing a few key seniors last season, the Chargers were unable to recover their place at the top of the rankings.

"[The rivalry] just wasn't there this season," coach Jeff Van Gessel said.

> "Coach really promotes our accountability on the team so that each player has a clearly defined role and responsibility on the ice."
>
> **MAX DVORAK (11)**
> *Hockey Player*

Aside from the early postseason success, the Spartans have continuously dominated throughout the season. The team finished the regular season 19-1, though unofficially it went undefeated for all 20 games. The one blemish on the boys' official record was not actually a loss, but a 5-1 victory against Snider they were forced to forfeit after playing a player who had been temporarily suspended when the game took place.

Major performances for the Spartans this season included beating the Columbus Icemen 3-2 on Jan. 15 and tying with St. Joseph's 2-2 at the very beginning of the season on Oct. 30. The team also beat Carmel's prestigious Gold team, which rallied confidence amongst the players.

"Carmel's schedule is much more difficult than ours," Dvorak said. "But we did manage to beat them."

Being in the 4A division this year for the Indiana State High School Hockey Association state tournament, the Spartans will not have to worry about defeating 5A giants Carmel and Columbus again to win the state championship. Their biggest competition, with regards to that goal, is St. Joseph's.

"It's a very tough road," Van Gessel said. "But from the very first practice, our main goal has been a state title. We don't go out just to have fun like some other teams might."

Players agree that the coach's tough mentality is paramount to the team's success.

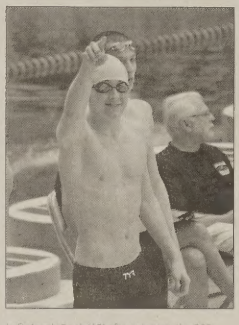
"Coach really promotes our accountability on the team so that each player has a clearly defined role and responsibility on the ice, which I think really promotes an atmosphere where an individual's work has a direct payoff for the entire team," Dvorak said.

Although sometimes admittedly hard on his players, the coach acknowledges the high-quality kids he consistently finds on his roster coaching at Homestead.

"I'm very lucky to have Homestead," Van Gessel said.

This year will be the second year that one of his players holds the season scoring record—last year it was his son, Jonathan Van Gessel; this year, Paul Lee. Lee set both the Homestead record and the Fort Wayne record for most points scored in a single season.

The state tournament begins this Saturday, Mar. 3 in South Bend. The Spartans will be guaranteed three games against Marion SB, HSE and Adams. Their competition will be tough; but, with the season they've got behind them, they have a good chance of excelling in the state tournament.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RUTH STONE

Left: Jacob Cook (12) after winning the 200-yard individual Medley. Above: Joel Foreman (12) gets ready for the 200-yard freestyle relay. Below: Robbie Veenstra (11) and Conner Whitaker (9) compete in the 100-yard butterfly.

Despite individual victories, boys' swim team finishes outside of top ten

By Tyler Kotesky
Writer

At the IHSAA Boys' Swimming State Finals, swimmers competed in seven events that boosted the team to finish 15th in the state.

"The state meet was great this year and had some tough competition," Robbie Veenstra (11) said.

The State meet took place at Indiana University Natatorium at IUPUI. It is the largest indoor pool in the United States and can seat over 6,000 fans. In the same pool that Spartan swimmers competed, over 100 American records have been broken.

In order to reach the finals on Saturday, Feb. 25 that contained the top sixteen athletes in each event at the state meet, individuals competed in the preliminaries on Friday, Feb. 24. In addition to the three relays that also advanced, four athletes qualified for the finals in individual events.

The first event was the 200-yard medley relay in which the relay squad, composed of Jacob Cook (12), Nicholas Litchin (12), Robbie Veenstra (11) and Taylor Howard (12), finish third in the consolation heat and 11th overall.

The next event featuring a Spartan swimmer was the 200-yard individual medley, which would be the highlight of the day for the Spartans. Cook, the only swimmer to represent the team in this event, held the second-best time in the preliminary competition, in which he finished less than 2 tenths of a second behind the leader.

In the final, he began with the other seven swimmers but soon distanced himself from the pack with two other swimmers near him. With only 50 yards left, Cook was in line with Brennan Berger ('13) Northridge High School. After the last turn around, however, Cook was determined to finish his career on a high note, and bolted toward the wall, leaving no doubt he had won the race.

Although this event was certainly the most significant finish for the team, other athletes represented the team by finishing with impressive times.

One underclassman standout was featured in the state meet despite his lack of experience. Conner Whitaker (9) advanced to the finals in the 100-yard butterfly and the 400-yard freestyle relay.

"I was thrilled to be there as a freshman," Whitaker said. "It's good to already have experienced that type of competition."

Whitaker was one of five freshmen to reach the State meet. His 14th-place finish in the 100 yard butterfly was just behind his teammate, Veenstra, who finished 12th.

The team's relays were also very successful. In addition to the excellence of the first relay, the 200-yard freestyle relay, featuring Joel Foreman (12), Cody Craig (11), Howard and Shane Talley (12), finished 4th in the consolation heat and 12th overall for the event. The 400-yard freestyle relay, consisting of Foreman, Craig, Whitaker, and Cook, finished 11th overall.

Outside of the swimming competition, diver Tyler Warren (12) competed well in his competition. Despite failing to qualify for regional competition last year, Warren advanced to the State Finals for the first time in the 1-meter diving competition.

Overall, this meet concluded another successful season for the swim and dive team.

"This was a very inexperienced team at the beginning of the year and finished as one of my all-time best teams," Head Swimming Coach Chad Englehart said. "They did not score as many points as other teams, but their maturity, leadership and team work was unmatched."

Coach Englehart pointed out the emotional growth the team experienced as one of its key accomplishments, but growth in performance was also apparent. Even at the state meet, swimmers achieved personal bests in their respective events.

"The team as a whole couldn't have done better," Veenstra said.

BY THE NUMBERS

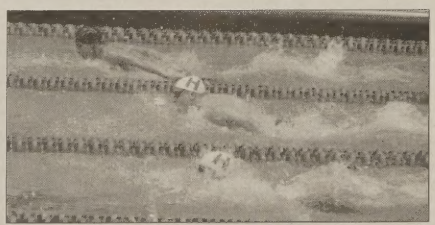
1:51.06 the amount of time it took for Jacob Cook to win the 200 Individual Medley

399.15 is the score earned by Tyler Warren in his 11 dives for finals

24.5 roughly how long it takes in seconds for Connor Whitaker and Robbie Veenstra to swim 50 yards of butterfly

22.16 the average amount of time it took each member of the 200 freestyle relay to swim their leg of the race

50 points was the final score



INTRAMURAL SOCCER

Recreational soccer league develops into intense competition for students

The intramural soccer program at The Plex North provides aggressive students another opportunity to establish their dominance in athletics. Eager to experience the action, #LetsGetWeird joined the program has torn through seemingly meager local competition thus far.

"Soccer isn't just a sport for guys with good looking hair and GQ Magazine subscriptions," Frankie Zirille (12), team captain, said. "But I mean, if you look good, you play good."

Headed by experienced leader Zirille and athletic super-star Kolby Rutherford (12), the team has accomplished two commanding wins. On the field, a physical defense complements an explosive offense to propel the team to victory. The team attributes early success, however, not to a dynamic, team-oriented offense, but to the work of Rutherford, and no one else.

"Have I scored a goal yet – no," Rutherford said. "Have I come close to scoring – debatable. But am I still the best offensive player – no doubt."

While the team began the season well, the confidence of the players inhibited them from performing well in the most recent game. In particular, Ryan Petrill (12) refused to play until he saw fit to bless the team with his contribution. Though they inspired their own demise, the athletes were heart-broken in defeat.

"We had been doing so well, so we were all shocked after the loss," Zirille said. "Kyle O'Malley (12) took it really hard; no one has seen him in a week and a half."

The team refuses to dwelb in defeat and looks to recover and earn a victory in the next game. Each player, except for Petrill, has pledged to express modesty in every game. Moreover, with the determination and help of Rutherford, the team is on track to return to its previous greatness.

-Joe Laughlin

▶▶7

number of goals Frankie Zirille (12) has scored this season in the school wide league.

TRACK AND FIELD PREVIEW

Track and field teams prepare to have a strong season in the upcoming year

The boys' track team has begun its season and is looking forward to yet another successful year. With plans of focusing more directly on the outdoor season and trying to get as many runners to state, this year's team has started on a high point.

"We have our heads more in the game this year," Max Silcox (11) said. "Our team is looking really good."

Last year's team came close to Carroll in conference, but ultimately came out with a win which won them the conference title for the third consecutive year. During the post season tournament, the team continued to excel, sending a few individuals to the State tournament.

> "I only ran one meet last year, [due to injury], but I'm expecting a good, successful year and plan on many people on the team making it to state."
>
> **TREVOR STANLEY (11)**
> *Returning Track Member*

Last season's most accomplished team members include Chase Payne (graduated) and Ryan Hire (graduated). This season, Blake Harris (11), Kyle Lake (12), Trevor Stanley (11), Silcox and many others are expected to duplicate their previous successes.

During regular season meets, the team is anticipating being able to win every meet at best, but, more importantly, learning how to strategize throughout the season to ensure its victory in the post season. Carroll will continue to be the team's main competition in conference as well.

The team has started off strong and motivated with practice six days a week and lifting two days a week.

"We're practicing really hard for this years' season to be competitive," Stanley said. "I only ran one meet last year, [due to injury], but I'm expecting a good, successful year and plan on many people on the team making it to state."

-Haiden Steingass

Valedictorian proves hardworking as teammate, student

You've probably seen him once or twice these past month at school. His newly shaved head, tall build, and letter jacket covered in patches give him away in the halls. Maybe you've seen him at lunch with a ridiculous amount of food on his tray, and seen him five minutes later with the same tray completely clean.

This is Nicholas Litchin (12), one of six seniors on the Homestead High School Men's Swim and Dive team. He has been varsity for three years, and holds spots in multiple events on Homestead's top ten all time lists.

Class of 2012, meet your Valedictorian.

That's right. Litchin, or "Litch" as he's referred to on the swim team, has attained the highest academic honor possible for his class while participating all four years in a varsity sport. To accompany all of the time he spends working on his academics, Litchin spends 24 hours every week in swimming workouts. For you math kids, that's 1,248 hours every year working out for his sport. To do this and manage a perfect 12.0 GPA? I think Homestead has found one of its brightest gems.

Litchin will be going to Indiana University next year where he will be studying biology. While he certainly had the potential to swim at a Division I program in college, Litchin chose to attend IU due to its proximity to home and excellent medical program. And, of course, he loves the basketball.

For those of you that might think Litchin loaded up on easy elective courses and took advantage of Homestead's unweighted grade system, think again. Upon graduation, Litchin will have taken five AP courses at Homestead. For electives? Litchin took Latin for several years and became something of a history buff in World War II history as a junior.

HOME COOKING

BY JACOB COOK
Business Manager

To me, none of this is a surprise. I have never met a more hardworking and dedicated individual. He is always one of the first people at practice and is always working as hard as his body will let him. Teachers can always count on him to have his homework done and turned in on time, if not early. And you can always count on him to be friendly and offer a smile.

I've been with Litchin through the thick and thin of high school. I've always believed that you don't truly know a person until you've been to the threshold of your physical or mental limits with them. For Litchin and I, this is a daily occurrence that we, along with the rest of the team, fight through as one. While he is generally quiet in nature, you can always count on him to support you when the going gets tough.

While I like to believe that I have helped him in swimming, I know that he has certainly helped push me in school. Whether it is writing an essay, taking a quiz, or completing a project, Litchin has always set a type of golden standard for me.

Making his academic excellence all the more impressive is his incredible talent in swimming. Litchin has qualified for national level Grand Prix meets and Speedo championship meets. He has been part of crucial point efforts for Homestead to ensure victories at invitational meets. And as something of a master breaststroker, Litchin holds spots in the top ten all-time lists for SWAC Swim team in the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke.

And the recognition doesn't stop there. Litchin was named Indiana News Center's Scholar-Athlete of the week in January after he was officially declared Valedictorian. Recently, he was nominated as an Indiana "Academic All Star."

At this point, you might be wondering if Litchin saves any time for relaxation in his life. As one of his close friends, I'll let you know that he makes the most of the little that he gets. Like all other high school boys, he certainly enjoys his video games. In what has become something of a swim team favorite, Litchin is ahead of the curve in Skryim. Along with the boys on the team, Litchin has one of the largest and most diverse groups of friends at Homestead.

> "Whether it is writing an essay, taking a quiz or completing a project, Litchin has always set a type of golden standard for me."
>
> **JACOB COOK**

Litchin is also planning to swim and stay in shape next year on IU's intramural team. After being so involved in the sport for four years, it was too difficult for him to abandon the sport completely. As an added bonus, his continued efforts with swimming will enable to keep eating 5,000-6,000 calories a day.

So let's hear it for Litchin. While he is Homestead's highest achieving scholar, he is also one of Homestead's most prestigious athletes. Next time you see the shaved head in the hallway, crowded letter jacket in front of you or that monstrous tray of food at lunch, congratulate him. He's one of the greatest guys you will ever meet and has an incredibly bright future ahead of him.

Wrestling team plagued by injuries at state

BY TYLER KOTESKY
Writer

Competing at the IHSAA Wrestling State Tournament, Kody George (12) and Frank Martin (11) ushered in the end of another successful season for the wrestling team.

George placed fourth at the semi-state competition; however, that finish meant he would have to face Neal Molloy (11) of Danville High School, a Semi-State champion, in his first match of the tournament. Molloy, who went 42-0 in the regular season, was also the defending state champion in the 132 pound weight class; thus, George knew he had an unlucky draw.

"It really depends on their draw; both Frank and Kody got tough draws," wrestling head coach Randy Pursley said. "It's hard, because it leaves no room for error."

Despite the fact that the odds were against him, George kept the match close with relentless dedication. After nearly four minutes, however, George was pinned to the mat, and the match was over.

"I feel like I wrestled well. We had a good game plan going into it and it was working," George said. "I just got caught, and that was the match."

Unfortunately, the tournament was single elimination at all rounds of competition, and George's season concluded with this match. While he did not advance as deeply into the state tournament as he would have liked, George still had a great season; he finished the season 35-6 and only lost two matches in the regular season.

In the postseason, Martin also had to face tough competition. Amidst talented wrestlers, Martin won the individual Regional championship in the 152 pound weight class; however, at the Semi-State meet, he lost in double overtime to the eventual state champion.

> "We had a series of injuries so much that by the sectional meet, we had five new starters that hadn't been in that position but had wrestled JV in the regular season."
>
> **Randy Pursley**
> *Wrestling Head Coach*

Martin, just like George, was stuck with a tough draw in the state meet. His opponent, Quincy Richey (12) of Brown County High School, had placed 2nd in the Evansville Semi-State and was 39-1 prior to the match against Martin. Martin kept the match close at first, but soon Richey gained many offensive points that led Martin to be eliminated in the first round.

"It was pretty competitive, but it wasn't the hardest competition I had faced," Martin said. "I just wasn't aggressive enough and didn't take shots."

Martin finished his first season with the team with an incredible record of 33-4.

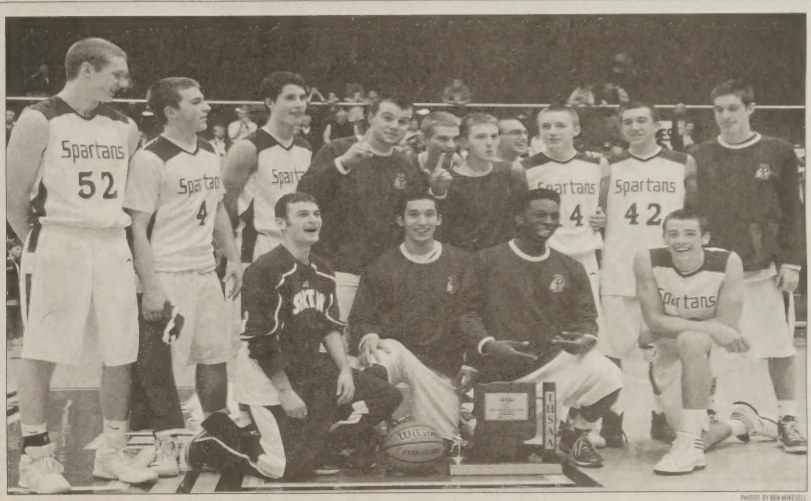
In addition to the excellence of George and Martin in the postseason, the team accomplished great feats in the regular season. One of its biggest accomplishments was the New Haven Invitational in which the team placed first.

The team also faced East Noble in a dual meet that came down to the wire. The close meet was decided by one match, and the team came within 3 points of beating the East Noble squad that would go on to nearly qualify for the Team State Finals.

Aside from the success, several problems plagued the team's season with the most influential factor being injuries.

"We had a series of injuries so much that by the sectional meet, we had five new starters that hadn't been in that position but had wrestled JV in the regular season," Pursley said.

With a strong set of wrestlers returning for next year, the team has the potential to recreate the dominance it established this year.



PHOTOS BY BEN MIKESELL

BOUNCING BACK

Boys' basketball team wins sectionals for first time in decade

BY JACOB COOK
Business Manager

The boys' basketball team won its first sectional championship in ten years last week after defeating Huntington North and Wayne High School. Strong performances around the board secured large wins for the team and have advanced them to the regional round of the state tournament.

The team had a bye in the first round of the sectional tournament, which enabled them to wait until last Friday for their first game. They played NHC Conference opponent Huntington North at Huntington North's gym and secured a 64-48 win. Zach Terrell (12) scored a game-high 22 points to lead the team to a commanding win and a place in Saturday's championship.

Wayne High School defeated Jay County to secure their own spot in Saturday's championship game, defeating them 51-42. Wayne, whose record on the season 9-11, pulled an upset to find their way in the title game.

The team had played Wayne on Jan. 24 of this season and defeated them 63-59 and was confident in it's abilities.

"We go into every game with the attitude that we are going to win," Kyle Galovich (12) said.

Galovich is one of the team's starting guards and regularly contributes points to the team's effort.

From the game's beginning, it was apparent that Homestead was the team to beat. The team took off to an early 8-3 lead and made 50 percent of its shots. Three-point shooting ended up being the crucial element to the team's success as they secured a dominant 63-36 victory to claim the sectional championship.

Seth Coate (11) scored a game high 20 points to lead the team to victory.

"It's a huge honor to play with these guys. I'm honored to play for a great team along with even better teammates," Coate said.

Zach Terrell was second in scoring for the team with 15 points, which included momentum-changing three pointers. Terrell has been a consistent scoring leader and is a senior captain for the team.

Defense was critical in the team's dominant win. After allowing 59 points in their last meeting, the team held Wayne to only 36 and kept their shooting percentage to 27 percent.

The team came under fire late in the postseason after losing two games in a row, following a perfect 19-0 start. Their first loss came to SAC opponent Snider, and their next came to at the Class 4A number 9 ranked Northrop.

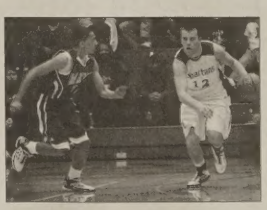
"We were a little shaken by [losing two games in a row], but we got back into practices and played like the team we were capable of being," Nick Gamble (11) said.

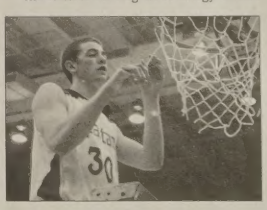
Gamble is one of the team's starting guards and also one of the team's leading scorers.

The team is thriving off of energy earned from winning their first sectional title in ten years. Last year, they were defeated by Jay County, who later won the sectional title in the semifinal round. In the past ten years, the closest the team came to winning a sectional title was making it to the semi-final round.

Up next for the team is their regional match up with fellow top-ten ranked Northrop. In their first game, Northrop defeated the team 72-60 and forced 17 Homestead turnovers. However, the team is feeling great about their ability to outlast Northrop and claim a regional title to advance to semi- state. Should the team beat Northrop, they will advance to play in the regional championship game and play the winner of Carmel and Kokomo.

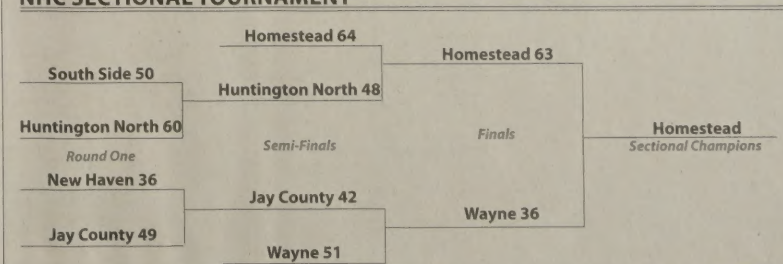
"Our confidence is pretty high right now after our big win," Coate said.





Left: Zach Terrell (12) runs down the court to score. Center: Seth Coate (11) cuts the net in celebration. Right: Nick Gamble (11) holds up sectional trophy.

NHC SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT



UGLY SWEATER DAY MONDAY NOTORIUS NETTERS

"My sweater went very well with my red hair. It complemented my eyes too."
-Colin Walsh (12)

Just Because Week got off to a tacky start as students filled the halls dressed in the trappings of thrift stores and grandmothers' closets. Ugly Sweater Day, a school-spirit favorite, drove many students to Goodwill in search of the gnarliest knits imaginable. However, Colin Walsh (12) certainly stood out as the ugliest sweater was none other than his own.

"My friend gave me a sweater to wear, but it didn't fit," Walsh said. "Embarrassingly, [my sweater] was my mom's."

Embarrassing as ugly sweaters may be, students proudly united in their flashy fashion choices. For some, ugly sweaters have even become an everyday staple due to their irony and comfort.

"I got around five weird looks every time I walked down the hallway," Walsh said. "[The sweater] was very comfortable though. I was never cold that day."

Boys' volleyball teams also got the ball rolling on Monday night. Created to provide a male alternative to the Dirty Duckers dodgeball tournament, Notorious Netters attracted a small crowd.

"There wasn't a huge turnout because it was the first night, but it was really fun," Miller (12) said. "But it was really fun hearing all of the students and fans cheer you on."

Miller, a participant in the team named "Ace in the Face," said Notorious Netters was the perfect venue to hang out with friends and have a good time.

"I've played volleyball in gym before, but it was really fun to get together after school and play with friends," Miller said. "It was cool that the guys finally got a chance to do their own thing."

Austin Plasterer (12) spikes the ball to earn a point against Colin Walsh (12).

PHOTO BY BEN MINESELL

PAJAMA DAY TUESDAY DIRTY DUCKERS

Left: Darby Bixler (11) runs to help her team come back in the first round. Above: Denielle Burnett (12) throws the ball to get an opponent out in round two.

PHOTOS BY SHELBY BILLINGSLEY

Students rolled out of bed for the second day of Just Because Week. For some, Pajama Day is just an excuse to break out a pair of comfortable sweats and slippers, but for others, "PJs" means a full ensemble.

"[I chose to wear] my moose pants, because they were the only other pajama pants that covered my ankles—I like to keep it classy."
-Emily Kaminski (11)

"I was definitely hoping to see some footie pajamas," Emily Kaminski (11) said. "I'm always jealous of the people who wear them because I can never find a pair."

While full-length, footed sleepwear was worn by many, others chose to dress in more traditional pajamas. From flannel to fleece, Pajama Day is always a favorite due to its change of pace and day-long comfort.

"[Pajama Day made me feel] lazy, comfortable, and a little exposed," Kaminski said. "My pants were really loose around the legs, so it was breezy."

Tuesday night ended with a bang as well, as students flooded the gymnasium to participate in Dirty Duckers. The dodgeball tournament, a Just Because Week tradition, hosted several girls' teams led by enthusiastic male coaches.

"[The games] can get really intense," Chelsey Reber (12) said. "Our coach was the boyfriend of one of the girls on our team; it was really funny to watch him take on that 'coach role.'"

Aside from the entertainment of watching suited, clipboard-carrying coaches train their teams, another Dirty Ducker's novelty is choosing team names.

"[Our team name was] 'The Ditzy Chicks,'" Reber said. "We had a lot of country music fans on the team, and it was a cute play on the band name."

JUST BECAUSE 2012

By Alison Mansfield
Feature Editor

Continually structured by seating arrangements, dress codes and bell-timed schedules, students are always looking for reason to break from the norm. This year, even as the dull February sky heightened high school monotony, Student Government's week of activity led students to don leis, rock obnoxious sweaters and sport onesies—just because.

HAWAIIAN DAY VARIETY SHOW BACKWARDS DAY WEDNESDAY&THURSDAY

Clad in hula skirts, Hawaiian shirts, leis and the occasional coconut bra, students brought a taste of the tropics to Fort Wayne. On Wednesday, a Hawaiian Day heat wave took the school by storm.

"I was excited about Hawaiian day because I absolutely adore anything tropical," Danika Bailey (11) said. "I chose to wear a shirt my Grandma bought from the Polynesian Resort in Disney World."

On Hawaiian Day, students sported seaside gear in style, regardless of its typical place in fashion.

"[When commenting on my shirt], people either said 'nice shirt' or said it looked like a health professional in the tropics."

On Thursday, students flipped out-- literally-- as fashion norms were reversed for Backwards Day.

"I wanted to participate in Just Because Week, and I thought it would be easy to just turn my band sweatshirt backwards," Cassidy Bueter (11) said. "It was really fun way to show school spirit."

The spirit day, denoted "Sdrawkcab Yad" on posters, encouraged students to get creative with their fashion choices. From wearing clothing on top of clothing, to flipping shirts inside out, to dressing like the opposite gender, students found a way to stand out from the crowd.

"Some people might not have wanted to participate because they were afraid of being judged," Bueter said. "But I think people thought my sweatshirt was funny. They were concerned about my hood getting in the way, though."

But while floral prints and inverted clothing brought variety to the school day, students exhibited their diversity of talents on Wednesday and Thursday night.

"I thought this year's [Variety] Show was really solid," Hans Gudakunst (12) said. "There were a lot more high-quality performances than last year."

The Variety Show's included a myriad of talents, everything from jump rope routines and Indian dance to choral ensembles and stand-up comedy was represented. No matter students' entertainment preferences, there was an act to captivate everyone.

"[One of my favorite acts] was Daymon Osborn's song 'Beautiful Chaos.' He wrote a good song and had a good sound," Gudakunst said. "The Justin Bieber act with Daniel Harrison (12), Spencer Doan (12) and James Leone (12) was hilarious too. James's strobe light dancing was pretty awesome."

"I would definitely [tell people to go to the Variety Show.] It's pretty awesome to see the talent that surrounds you every day."
-Hans Gudakunst (12)

1. The cast dances together to the performed song 'Forget You.' 2. Halle Shine (12) shows off pogo stick skills as she emcees the event. 3. Nick Rittenhouse (11) and Patrick Rittenhouse (10) perform a challenging jump rope routine.

PHOTOS BY BEN MINESELL

AMERICAN DAY FRIDAY BASKETBALL&MORP

Students saluted both school spirit and national pride on Friday, donning red, white and blue for America Day.

"I just wore as much red, white, and blue in one outfit as possible," Jamie Baer (11) said. "America Day was a smart choice by the student government because it is easy to dress up for."

United by our national colors, students felt a sense of patriotism and national identity.

"I felt absolutely patriotic," Baer said. "I was practically a walking American flag."

Just Because Week concluded in part with the boys' sectional basketball game at Huntington North. The Spartans emerged victorious with a score of 64-48, rocketing them to sectional championship game on Saturday.

The highly-anticipated MORP dance on Friday night also topped off the evening. MORP, a reversal of Prom both in name and practice, provides an opportunity for girls to invite guys to a casual date.

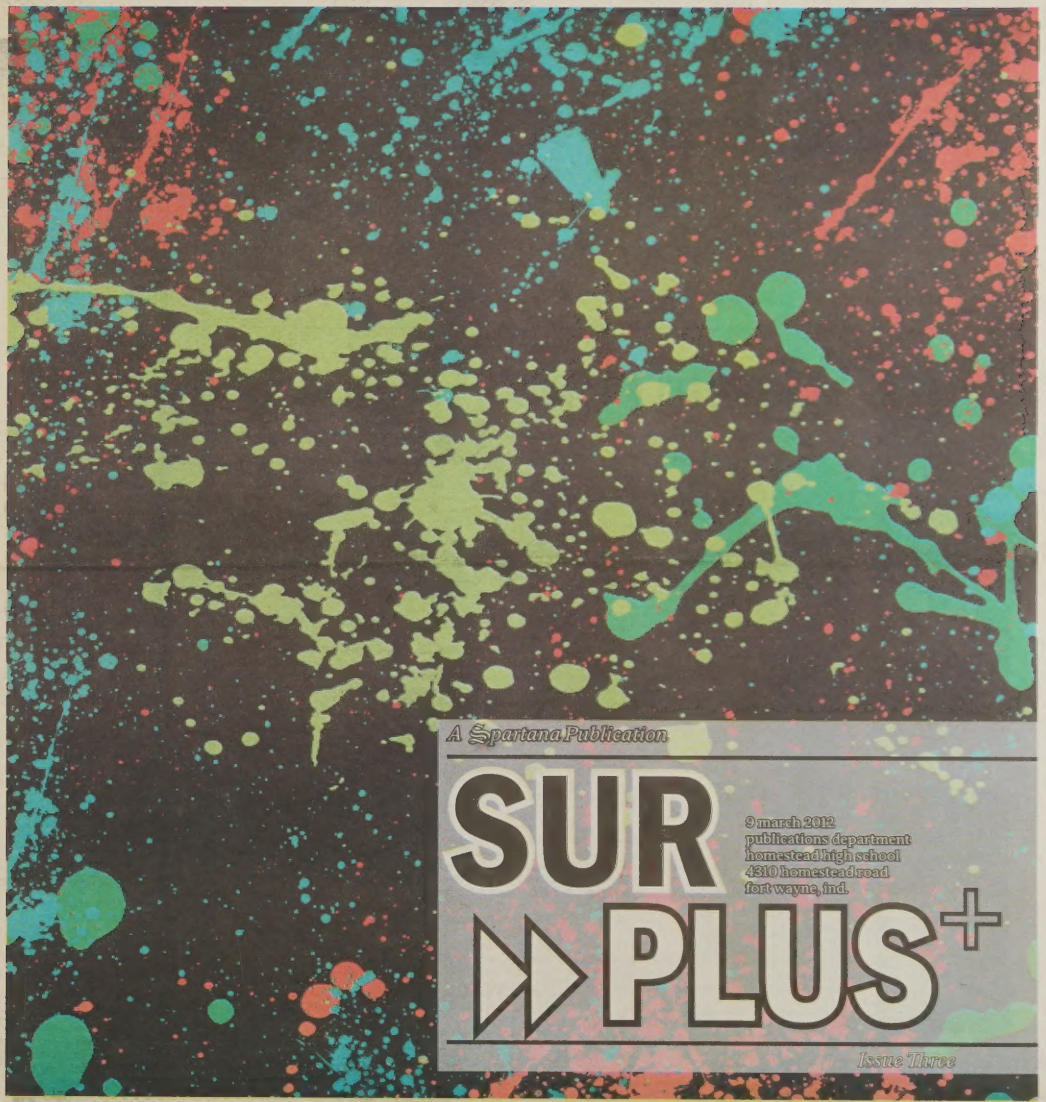
"My girlfriend asked me by putting a note inside this tiny cake she baked," Joe Sherman (11) said. "It was really sweet; I could tell she put a lot of thought and time into preparing it."

The theme for this year's MORP dance was iMorp, student government's nod to technological advancement. With app-themed t-shirts, techno decorations and an impressive lighting situation, students danced the night away alongside their teacher chaperones.

"[My favorite part of MORP] was definitely watching Mr. Jankowski break it down to 'Cupid Shuffle.'"
-Hans Gudakunst (12)

Kyle O'Malley (12) leads the student section in cheers at Friday night's sectional.

PHOTO BY BEN MINESELL



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Issue Three

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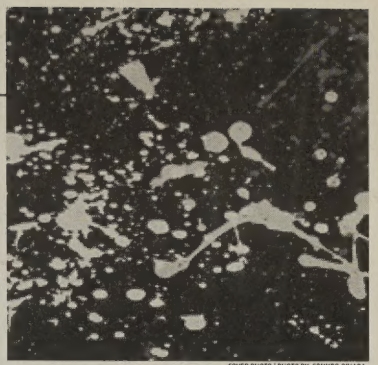

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WIZARD OF OZ
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FORT FUN

In order to get rid of the constant "There's nothing fun to do in Fort Wayne!" complaints, Surplus has taken the initiative to put an end to boredom by providing a list of awesome activites going down in Fort Fun.

FEBRUARY:

Jim Gaffigan --
March 24
Buy your tickets now before they're sold out! Acclaimed comedian Jim Gaffigan is coming to the Embassy Theatre to perform two sets for the people of Fort Wayne.

Headwaters Ice Skating --
Now - March 13
Don't let the cold air keep you inside, drive on down to Headwaters park to enjoy some relaxing ice skating with your friends and family.

Self Portrait Exhibit --
Now - March 22
Have an artistic eye? Enjoy drawing yourself? Then bring your art works down to the Auer Center on Main Street in order to have your self portrait works on display with other local artists.

Trench Art --
Now - March 26
This genre of art is on display at Fort Wayne's Museum of Art. Trench Art is similar to Outside Art but only uses tools that would readily be available to soliders.

Cabinet Curiousities --
Now - March 26
Another exhibit taking place at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art is Cabinet Curiousities which showcases abstract and exotic objects.

Valentine's Day Showcase --
Now - March 13
Taking place at the Castle Gallery in downtown Fort Wayne, this new art show will showcase local artist's works.

Fisher Price Farm --
Now - April 8
Taking place at the Fort Wayne Botanical Consevatory, kids and grown ups of all ages are welcome to come and experience the farming lifestyle such as gather eggs, milking cows, and churning butter.

Art & Writing Exhibition --
Now - April 8
This exhibition, featuring students from Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio, includes works of art and writings from the most prominent students in the midwest.

Treasure! --
Now - May 30
Located at Science Central, explore the history of treasure hunting and the technology used in order to discover hiddne treasures all over the world.

The Phil: Friemann Special --
March 21
The Fort Wayne Philharmonic's Friemann special offers an intimate and personal experience with the musical group as they play pieces highlight each instrument.

Oscar in Paris --
March 24
Excited for the Oscars? Looking for an enjoyable night out? Then venture over to Cineman Center for their tribute to the Oscars: Oscar in Paris.

Komet Hockey --
March 24
The Fort Wayne Komets are currently in their 60th year of the franchise, so come on out and show your appreciation for our hockey team.

Lotus Gallery: Life Through Portals--
March 21
Taking place at the Lotus Gallery on Lafayette Street, artist Caitlin Chowley will display her latest artistic achievements.

2012 Bridal Extravaganza--
March 26
Every last detail of your dream wedding will be located at the fifth annual Bridal Extravaganza at the Grand Wayne Center.

Wizard of Oz: A Musical--
March 12 - March 14
Taking place at the Allen County Public Library downtown, this production of the Wizard of Oz encorporates folk, jazz, and classical music.

KEVIN'S korner

BAN THIS SICK *FILTH*

OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE SQUALID DEPRAVITY OF MODERN MEDIA

SURPLUS CONTRIBUTOR KEVIN KUSISTO PUTS IN HIS TWO CENTS REGARDING THE ON GOING ISSUE OF CENSORSHIP WITHIN OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR COMMUNITIES. KUSCISTO WRESTLES WITH THE ETHICS OF CENSORSHIP AND DEBATES WHETHER OR NOT TO BAN THIS SICK FILTH OR LEARN TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE SQUALID DEPRAVITY OF MODERN MEDIA.

Censorship. What a dirty word. It brings to mind images of burning books, pages of text with lines blacked out, China, and The Man beating down on oppressed artistic would-be free spirits (so basically China). If it doesn't, read the last sentence a few more times and see if that helps you with the correlation between censorship and PURE EVIL. Censorship is something I'd like to believe is a problem we don't have in America, and mostly we don't. Sure, the FCC can be overzealous decency Nazis when policing television, and the MPAA sometimes seems to arbitrarily hand out NC-17 ratings to reasonable R films, but for the most part, America has worked the censorship itch out of its system.

That doesn't mean it's something that should be taken for granted, however. We've come a long way in the last century; it was only 78 years ago that James Joyce's Ulysses was considered obscene and was illegal everywhere except France. Ulysses! Ulysses, James Joyce's masterpiece and one of the twentieth century's greatest literary works! Believe it or not, kids, 78 years is not an unbelievably long time, and relative to the country's existence and the pace at which our culture develops, America's relaxed censorship standards are still a delicate and fragile flower whose growth must be nurtured even as its petals are lovingly gazed upon.

BY KEVIN KUSISTO
Surplus Contributor

Obviously, I oppose censorship, but there has to be a line. Let's start by drawing it at child pornography. Child porn is illegal for the obvious moral and ethical reasons, plus it's something just about everyone can agree on (pedophiles excepted, of course, but no one cares what they think. Also, if you're a closet pedophile, it's not like you'd be jumping all over the Pedophile Partnership of America petition for free child porn anyway), so it's a good starting point for censorship. Moving backwards from there towards the mainstream (skipping regular pornography, as it is a) not illegal for adults and b) not really the subject of this column), we start to hit the outer limits of mainstream media. Movies that wrestle with NC-17 ratings, video games that special-interest groups demand be pulled from shelves, books that decency advocates say needs to be sold shrink-wrapped, and music condemned by various churches occupy this space. It's where the controversial stuff lives.

Ah yes, controversy. The question is not what is controversial (depictions of sex, violence, drugs, swearing, irreverent treatment of religion –you can name many examples), but why it is controversial. If my piece of media A offends your beliefs or exceeds your tolerance standards for topic X, you don't have to read/watch/play/listen to media A. No one is forcing you to have anything to do with it. Maybe you don't think media A is of any use to anybody, but it's not your right to decide that no one should have access to it.

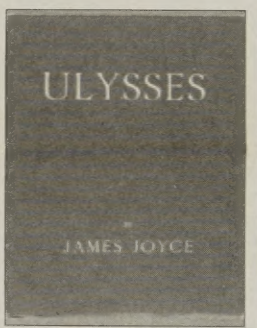
Disclaimer: I think most media released today, like just about any time period, sucks –probably even more so with media that pushes the envelope. There is far more stupid, trashy, lowbrow, ignorant, exploitative, and –possibly worst of all- insipid junk thrown at us than intelligent, original, genuine works. But that's okay, because for all of the dirt, there are still the gems. And there are enough –enough that you could conceivably spend your entire life enjoying the great stuff and ignoring the rest. This is why censorship is such a bad idea. It's like trying to find diamonds in the rough using a hydrogen bomb. Only no one can agree which rocks are the valuable ones.

Would you, by banning media that you have decided is "too violent," or "too offensive," be eliminating many works that have no positive effect on anyone, no message, and no use? It's not my place or yours to decide that, but for the sake of argument let's say you would be. Let's say 99% of the censored content was terrible, horrible garbage that is better off in a landfill than in the hands of Americans. But what about that other 1%? That tiny fraction could have real artistic merit. That tiny fraction could be enlightening, sophisticated, quality media, and thanks to your good intentions, it's gone. Diamonds, meet hydrogen bomb.
This scenario (the 99% one, not the bomb one) is not as far removed from reality as you might imagine. Imagine if restrictions on literature, to use one example, had been only slightly tighter in the last century. We might not have had access to books that ignited controversy over their publication or barely passed muster with US censors, books like the aforementioned *Ulysses*, or *Brave New World*, the *Catcher in the Rye*, *Howl*, *Naked Lunch*, *On the Road*, *Slaughterhouse Five*, *The Satanic Verses*, and literally hundreds of other significant works. Would we also lack access to scores of less-significant "offensive" material that nobody would miss very much? Probably, but I'd gladly have to sift through a sea of junk literature for a chance to find any of the books mentioned above.

Oh, but think of the children! We need media regulation to ensure that the depraved content disturbed individuals like this author are so fascinated by never finds its way to our impressionable young children! It will corrupt the flower of sweet innocence that grows unfettered in the bosom of every laughing child!

Excellent point, as frenzied and slightly manic as it may be. The children must be considered; all media is not appropriate for all people. But once again, censorship is not the answer. Rather, a ratings system is the way to get the right content to the right people (and keep it away from the wrong ones). Classify, don't censor, that's what I always say (not really, but I kind of like the sound of that). So slap on those parental advisory stickers, assign those R ratings, let people know what could offend them or be inappropriate for their children. I wholly support classification and ratings systems, as well as websites that help parents determine what media is right for their kids. Those things are extremely beneficial to an informed, well-rounded society, just as access to all media is. So enjoy your freedom to watch, read, play, and listen to obscene, offensive, and degenerate material. And remember to leave it available to others to make an informed choice about, as well.

Notorious novels



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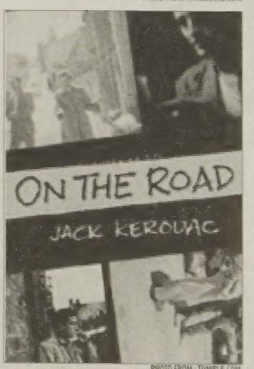
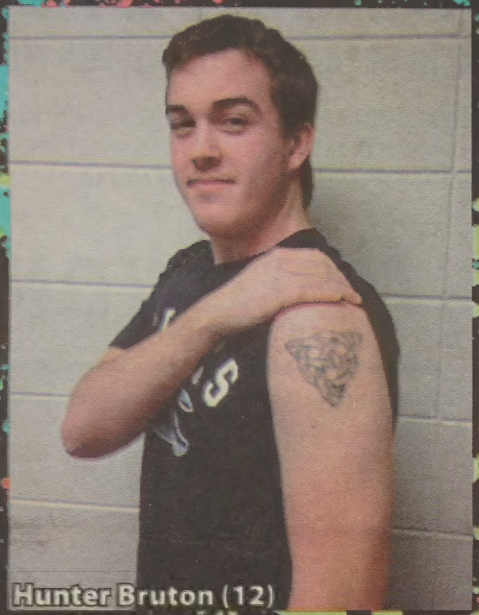


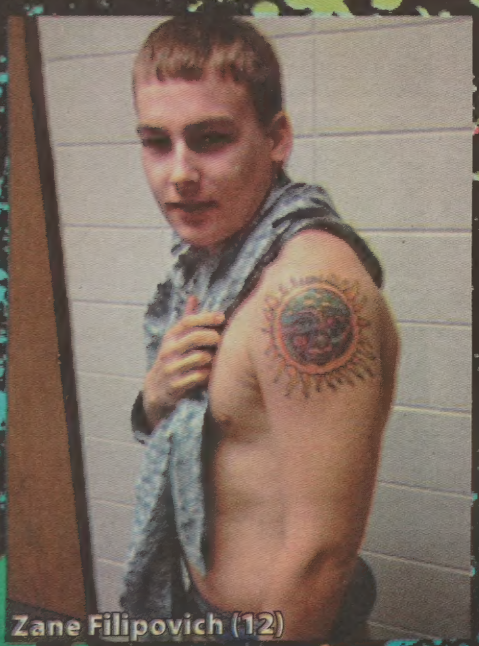
PHOTO FROM : TUMBLR.COM

PHOTO FROM : WORDPRESS.COM

All of the books posted above have been at some point in time been banned throughout the United States. Some novels were banned for their innovative writing techniques, others were banned for the language and dark subject matter that lurked in the pages of these books. Now, in 2012, these books are considered undeinable English classics.

Homestead Inking


Hunter Bruton (12)


Zane Filipovich (12)

By Connor O'Hara
Surplus Editor-In-Chief

It's often seen as one of the telltale signs of teenage deviance. It's one of a parent's worst nightmare. It's something that is often considered to be one of the worst things to do to a person's body. Of course, this all depends on who you talk to. For many students are Homestead, their tattoos are not only symbols of their personal values and beliefs, but also one of the greatest and most permanent forms of individual expression.

While certainly this idea does not always carry over into mainstream society, students at Homestead are adamant that the problem with "inking up" is that most people look at their tattoos as a cry for attention, rather than the personal form of expression that it truly is.

For senior Sarah Lohman, the tattoo on her side holds a very special and deep meaning to her. Her tattoo reads "To the moon and back," which is from a story book that her mother used to read to her when she was a child. The name of the story book is *Guess How Much I Love You*.

"The last line in the book is "I love you right up to the moon and back." My mom would always read me the story before I went to sleep when I was little. She would tell me she loves me to the moon and back still today," Lohman said.

Unfortunately, the cause for her to actually tattoo her abdomen are not as sweet and loving as the tattoo would have you believe.

"A couple of years ago my parents got divorced and things were kinda rough at home and I had an urge to do something out of character. I'd never drank or done drugs and I wasn't about to turn to that,so I guess a tattoo was my way of acting out," Lohman said.

Lohman is not the only student at Homestead with a tattoo as a reminder of good times that have passed. Many people use this as a reason to get a tattoo, whether to hold on to the image of a certain person, or even remember certain dates or events that have deeply impacted their lives and altered the course of their future. Zane Filipovich (12) has one such tattoo.

On Zane's left shoulder blade is a tattoo of a smiley face with wings, and beneath that is a 3 sets a numbers: a month, day, and year. For a long time Zane could not talk about the meaning of his tattoo, it was just too much for him. He was asked quite often, almost every time someone saw it, but to reveal the meaning and origin of his tattoo proved to be to much for him.

Now, fortunately, Zane has come to terms with the meaning and impact that the ink on his shoulder has on him, and he is now able to speak of the meaning with ease.

"The meaning of the tattoo on my back is to memorialize my little brother," Filipovich says. "My brother was a very important part of my life and was the greatest kid ever."

While his brother may be gone, Filipovich will not let that stop that from letting him carry his brother's memory on his shoulder. However, the tattoo on his back is not the only ink that Filipovich has on his body. His left shoulder has a tattoo of a sun that may be extremely familiar to some, but a mystery to others.

In the 1990's a craze swept the nation. The craze was over the band Sublime that originated from Long Beach. Sublime was known for their reggae influenced music, as well as their lyrics that preached harmony and love amongst people who, at the time, were at odds and turning to violence.

"Sublime is my favorite band. The personify the California lifestyle that I wish I could live so well," Filipovich said.

Everyone has a favorite band or artist that they admire, or even worship. Whether it be The Beatles, Radiohead or Elliott Smith, everyone has that one musical group that clicks with them the most. Now, whether or not fans of these groups would pay for tattoos so they could be forever stamped with the band's logo or faces, is another story.

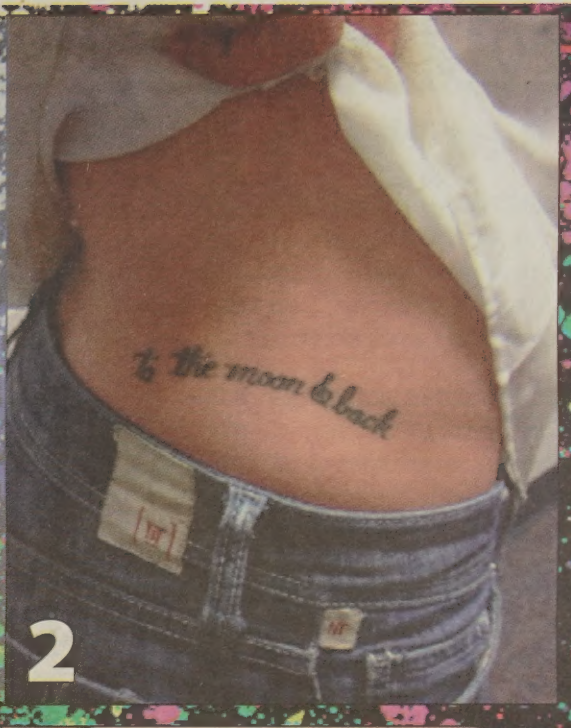
One could certainly argue that one of the most memorable experiences of getting their tattoo would be the moment their parents see for the first time what their child has gotten imprinted on their body. However, whether or not the parents had knowledge of the tattoo prior to their child getting it, remains different with every story.

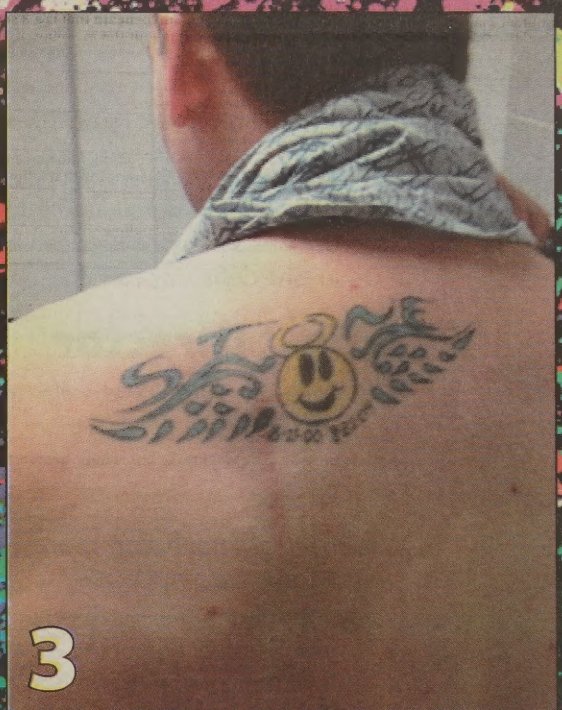
"My parents weren't really expecting me to actually go through with it," Hunter Bruton (12) said. Bruton has a tattoo on his left arm that an ancient Celtic symbol meaning "order through chaos. "They've come to accept it now, but when I originally showed them my arm, they were pretty pissed."

While there are certainly more than these three students at Homestead with tattoos, many students have often considered getting tattoos, and the students who already have one are considering getting another.

"I am going to wait for sure, because if I don't always love the one I have, I don't think I should get another one," Sarah Lohman said.

(Clockwise)
1. Zane Filipovich shows of his Sublime tattoo. The Sublime sun is a staple of the bands logo, as well as the California lifestyle that was preached through Sublime's music. Filipovich uses his tattoo to express the kind of lifestyle he wished he was living in Long Beach, California.
2. Hunter Bruton shows off his tattoo, an ancient Celtic symbol. It's meaning is an old message that is translated as "Order through chaos."





1. Sarah Lohman shows off the side of her abdomen where she has her only tattoo. She decided to get the tattoo about one year ago, and hasn't regretted it for one second.
2. A close up of Lohman's tattoo. It reads "to the moon and back." The line is from Lohman's favorite childhood book that her mother used to read to her when she was growing up. Her mother and she still use the phrase to this day
3. Zane Filipovich displays his tattoo that signifies the loss of his younger brother. When Filipovich was growing up, his brother grew ill and passed away when Zane was still growing up. The tattoo is Filipovich's way of immortalizing his brother's memory.
4. A close up of Hunter Bruton's tattoo. Bruton has plans to add on this tattoo in the near future, though due to the high price of elaborate tattoo art, it might be a while.

2012 OSCAR REVIEW

Best Picture

Who won: *The Artist* was the clear front runner at this year's Oscars, and, as rumours predicted, the black and white silent film took away the Oscar this year, regardless of it's small fan base.

Who should have won: Terrence Malick's *The Tree of Life* is a sprawling epic encompassing the deepest of human emotions as well as the entire universe in it's abstract and ambigous beatuy.

Lead Actor

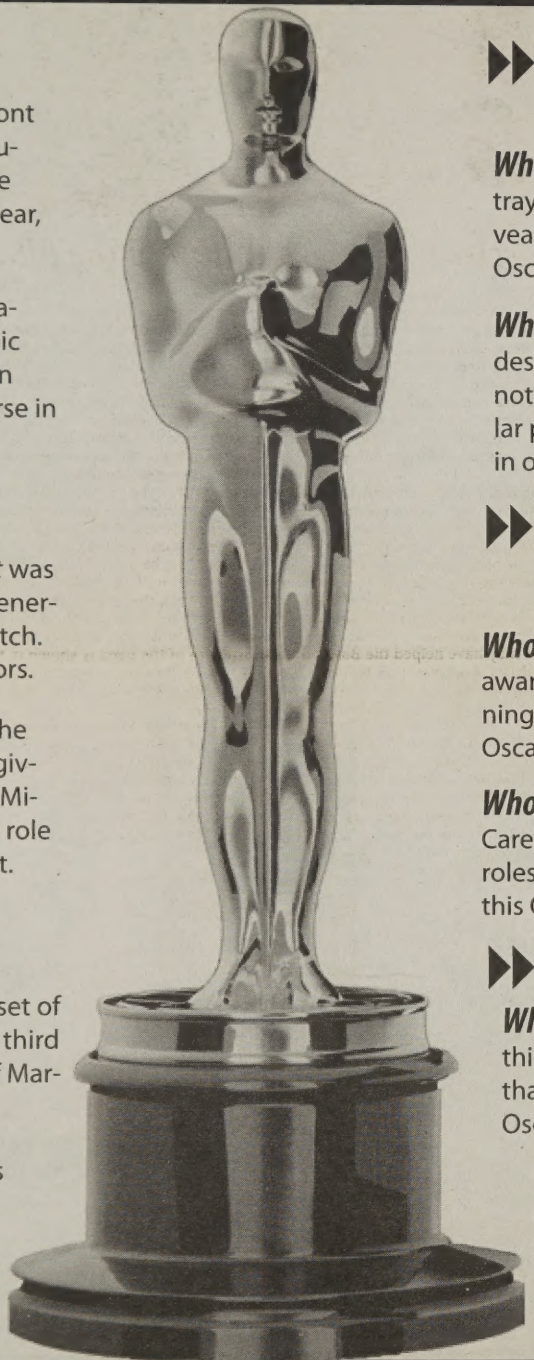
Who won: Jean Dujardin in *The Arist* was the obvious choice as his silent and energetic Geroge Valentine is a joy to watch. Also, the Academy loves foreign actors.

Who should have won: Surpsingly the Academy has made the right call in giving Dujardin his Oscar. Even though Michael Fassbender was robbed for his role in *Shame*, Dujardin was the next best.

Lead Actress

Who won: Merly Streep lead the upset of Viola Davis this year. Streep won her third Best Actress Oscar for her portrayl of Margaret Thatcher in *The Iron Lady*.

Who should have won: Surplus was probably in the minority in hoping that the Oscar went to Rooney Mara for her phenominal portrayl of disturbed hacker Lisbeth Salander.



Best Supporting Actor

Who won: Christopher Plummer's portrayl of an elderly man who suddenly reveals that he is a homosexual was a sure Oscar bet this year.

Who should have won: The man who deserves this award was unfortunately not nominated. Albert Brooks gave a stellar performance as gangster Bernie Ross in one of the best films of 2011: Drive.

Best Supporting Actress

Who won: Octavia Spencer won this award for her role in *The Help.* After winning the Golden Globe for this award, an Oscar was certainly in her future.

Who should have won: Unfortunately, Carey Mulligan is not nominated for her roles in *Drive* or *Shame*, so Bejo can have this Oscar. She definitely earned it.

Best Director

Who won: *The Artist* was the film to beat this year, so it was a safe bet to assusme that Michel Hazanavicius will accept this Oscar for directing *The Artist.*

Who should have won: Terrence Malick desreved this award more than any other nominee. His directing of *The Tree of LIfe* is one of the greatest achievemenets of modern film.

BOWER BIRDS

PHOTO FROM: THE CEDAR DOG

Hipster heroes, Bowerbirds, release new groundbreaking album

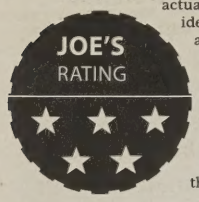
By Joe Janizek
Surplus Contributor

—

Gone are the days of the one acoustic guitar, one accordion, and one bass drum arrangements that were so embleatic of the Bowerbirds' first two albums.

Their new album, The Clearing, which was released on March 6th is filled with broadened instrumentation, featuring distorted electric guitars, horns, string sections, and complex percussion. Any worries that these changes might detract from band's rustic folk style, however, are quickly alleviated by the beginning of the album, which lives up to, and even exceeds the expectations set by the band's masterfully crafted debut and follow-up.

The first song, "Tuck the Darkness In," is actually difficult to identify immediately as the Bowerbirds, as the introduction aurally resembles a more traditional indie rock set up. Upon further listening and the start of Phil Moore's vocals, hoever, the nature-centric gestalt unique to the band becomes more apparent. The use of, and focus on the newly implemented electric instruments allows the song to reach a much more intense apex than would have been previously achievable, as screamingly distorted guitar leads are layered over thundering drums and an unforgettable piano riff.



What truly makes the arrangement impressive is the fact that the songs are not overpowered, but instead complemented by the introduction of new instruments. This balance was probably assisted by the fact that the album was recorded in Bon Iver songwriter Justin Vernon's Eau Clair studio. Vernon also recently revamped his sound, favoring a fuller backing for his vocals, and his assistance may have helped the Bowerbirds adjust theirs. Bon Iver, Bon Iver and The Clearing, while distinct, share similarities in the reflection of the transformation ofthe two artists.

After the powerful finish of the first track, a heavy bass drum signals the start of "In the Yard," which features a rare vocal performance from pianist Beth Tacular. The song quickly shifts in time signature and feel, as Tacular and Moore harmonize about "grand parades of snow-capped peaks." The lyrics brush with cliché when they appear on a page, but when combined with the duo's hauntingly genuine music, the words evoke a sense of what their record label describes as "an overwhelming sense of freedom and triumph over society's unreasonable conventions."

The Clearing is not free, however, from its own flaws. While the album opens strong with the two singles, it quickly moves on to other songs that are slightly less compelling. The Bowerbirds are not afraid to delve into the esoteric, and while this contributes to their genius and has led to the inception of some of their best music, this effort occasionally falls on its face. When the music is not at its best, the lyrics lack the necessary support and color, and begin to seem cloying and almost ridiculous at times. The true strength of the band is shown in these weaker songs, though, as even the less impressive parts of the album manage to resonate far more effectively than their previous efforts.

While the Bowerbirds may not have reached commercial success yet, their artistic talent has blossomed with The Clearing, which features rich sonic layers that build on, rather than detract from the overall impression of their songs.

PERFORMANCE **BRIEFS**

WHO: Jim Gaffigan
WHERE: Embassy Theatre
WHEN: March 24

WHO: Drew De Four
WHERE: C2G Music Hall
WHEN: March 9

WHO: The Twang Gang
WHERE: North Star Bar & Grill
WHEN: March 17

WHO: Sunny Taylor Band
WHERE: C2G Music Hall
WHEN: March 23

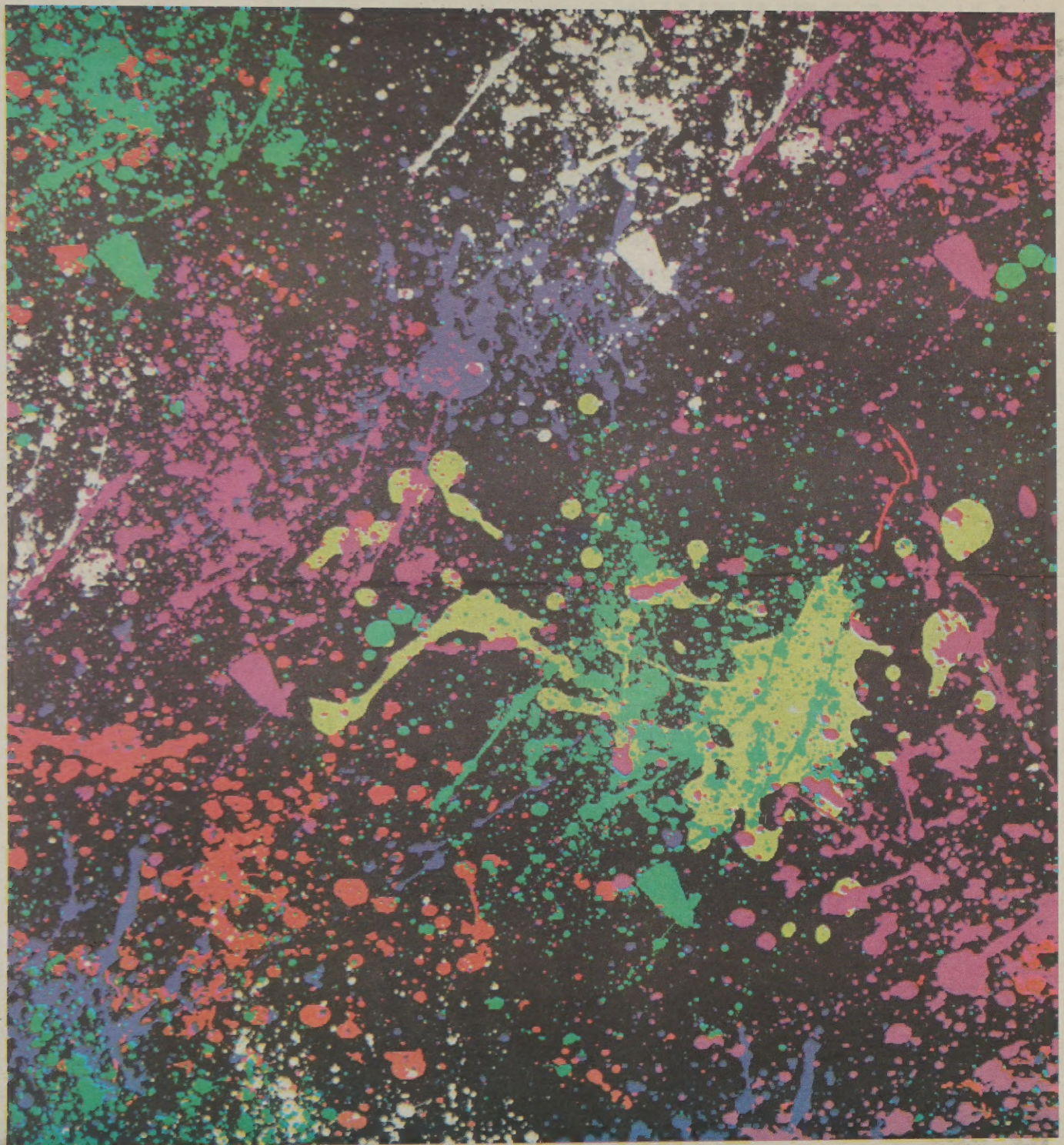
WHO: Human Nature
WHERE: Morris Arts Center
WHEN: March 25

WHO: Radiohead
WHERE: Tinley Park, IL
WHEN: June 10

THE **CHARTS**

as of march sixth, two thousand twelve

1. **Duets II**
   -- Tony Bennett
2. **Own The Night**
   -- Lady Antebellum
3. **21**
   -- Adele
4. **Unbroken**
   -- Demi Lovato
5. **Tha Carter IV**
   -- Lil' Wayne
6. **The Reckoning**
   -- Needtobreathe
7. **#1 Girl**
   -- Mindless Behavior
8. **Sweeter**
   -- Gavin DeGraw
9. **Watch The Throne**
   -- Jay-Z & Kanye West
10. **Pearl Jam Twenty**
    -- Pearl Jam
11. **Here For A Good Time**
    -- George Strait
12. **Coast to Coast**
    -- Cody Simpson
13. **My Kinda Party**
    -- Jason Aldean
14. **Torches**
    -- Foster the People
15. **I'm With You**
    -- Red Hot Chili Peppers
16. **Halfway To Heaven**
    -- Gilbert
17. **1**
    -- The Beatles
18. **Major/Minor**
    -- Thrice
19. **Heritage**
    -- Opeth
20. **Now 39**
    -- Various Artists



the SPARTANA

NEWS The possibility of more strict disciplinary action by the school for foul language during the day is debunked. 2

OPINION The national phenomena of the online response to "Kony 2012" the reputability of non-profit Invisible Children. 3

LIFE Students take advantage of growing market for apps by creating their own games and programs for Apple devices. 5

SPORTS As the season for spring sports begins soon with competitions, the Spartana addresses each teams goals, top athletes. 7

FEATURE During March Madness, students and faculty follow the games and celebrate their favorite teams in various manners. 8

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Wednesday, March 28, 2012 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Faculty members receive Lilly Endowment

Connie Christophersen and Deb Rietdorf to trace spread of Black Plague across Europe

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Deb Rietdorf and Connie Christophersen will use the grant money to visit cities in Europe and to study the effect the Black Plague made in each city.

By Joe Janizek
Co-Editor-In-Chief

Two teachers have been awarded a grant to travel through Europe, following the path of the Black Plague.

English teacher Connie Christophersen and science teacher Deb Rietdorf received $16,000 from the Lilly Endowment, which is a philanthropic foundation tied to the Indianapolis-based Lilly Company, so that they could visit cities heavily impacted by the Black Plague and use "video, blogs and e-notes" to record their experience "through the eyes of a modern storyteller and a scientist," according to their proposal for the grant. The end product of the trip will include PowerPoint presentations and a "digital book that intertwines creative nonfiction with modern science."

The grant aims to "enhance the quality of educational experiences for Indiana residents," according to the Lilly Endowment's mission statement for education listed on their website.

"I think [the grant] is extremely advantageous because teachers are able to pursue opportunities that would not be possible without the grant in many cases," Christophersen said.

The monetary allotment provides teachers with a chance to improve and enrich their lessons, during time that they would normally not be able to do so.

"Many teachers have to work in the summer time, so it provides resources to them that they normally wouldn't have," Christophersen said.

The grant can also help teachers improve their skills in other, less immediately apparent ways.

"Through this grant, you meet great people, and it provides amazing networking opportunities," Christophersen said.

Christophersen and Rietdorf will spend three weeks on their trip, traveling to cities including Rome, Naples, Florence, Venice, Avignon,

▶ SEE 'LILLY GRANT,' PAGE 2

STOP THE ONLINE BULLYING

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

District hosts Digital Citizenship Conference to educate community

By Tori Barnard
News Editor

The SACS Anti-Bullying Task Force held its first Digital Citizenship Conference for parents, students and staff to address online safety.

The conference featured a panel of experts including Technology Professional Development Coordinator Mike Gorman, Assistant Principal Jeff Kintz, School Resource Officer Ingrid Herriott, Clinical Psychologist Dr. Kelly Hutner, Community Education Coordinator YWCA of NE Indiana Chynna Presley and Allen County Prosecuting Attorney Karen Richards.

During the presentation, the experts discussed their roles in promoting digital citizenship, raising awareness about cyber-bullying or handling cases of Internet misuse.

According to the panel, bullying is prevalent online because it becomes easier to say something one would not typically say to another when they are not face to face.

"Once students go online, they develop keyboard courage

▶ SEE 'CONFERENCE,' PAGE 2

> "Once students go online, they develop keyboard courage — making statements they wouldn't make in person."
>
> **JEFF KINTZ**
> *Assistant Principal*

Senior wins Hoosier Hero essay contest

By Laura Zweig
Copy Editor

Indiana Dollars for Scholars organization presented its annual Hoosier Heroes Award to Song Kim (12). She will be presented the award at the Hoosier Heroes Celebration in Indianapolis in May.

According to its website, the Hoosier Heroes Essay Contest was "created to provide an opportunity for Indiana junior and senior high school students to identify Indiana citizens who have made significant contributions to society and who serve as role models and inspirational figures for youth."

Participants were tasked with writing an essay about an Indiana citizen who moved them in one of five categories: Arts & Athletics; Business, Science & Technology; Education; Personal Inspiration; and Service.

Originally, Kim had considered writing about a number of Indiana entrepreneurs before finally settling on someone a little closer to home.

"I considered writing about the Debrand's Company or something like that," Kim said. "I thought it would be best to go with someone that I personally knew to write about more naturally.

Kim entered an essay about her father, a small business owner, in the Business category.

"Even though he's faced a lot

▶ SEE 'HOOSIER HERO,' PAGE 2

Students excel at state DECA competition

By Priya Parikh
Copy Editor

Last week, students traveled to Indianapolis for the state DECA competition. The three day competition was attended by 58 students, participating in a variety of marketing, management and entrepreneurship events.

"DECA is an international association of students who can either participate in role play or a written paper event against other students in a district, state and national level," Brian McNeal, DECA coach and Business teacher, said. "There are tremendous leadership opportunities available at the competitions, with over 250,000 participants, often including students at the national level from other countries. DECA also offers excellent leadership opportunities and chances for students to really develop their speaking skills."

During the state competition, DECA participants especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet others with similar interests.

"I had a lot of fun at the state competition – it was a great place to get a glimpse of the professional environment while participating in youth-orientated events that gave you a chance to interact with students throughout Indiana," Song Kim (12) said.

Although state DECA participants greatly enjoyed their time at the event, the preparation for the oral and written presentations was extensive.

"Song and I spent a lot of time preparing our business plan," Varsha Venkatakrishna (12), who partnered with Kim in the International Business Plan event, said. "We wrote about a business we came up with ourselves, so a lot of the paper had to be drafted without any clutches given by preexisting business' data."

Overall, Homestead placed sixth in the state competition out of more

▶ SEE 'DECA,' PAGE 2

FINISHING FIRST

Cameron Dark (11) won the overall business services category, as he earned first place in the subcategories of marketing concepts and products and service management. He will compete at the international level.

BRIEFS

ALMOST FAMOUS EVENT
The Mayor's Youth Council is holding the second annual Fort Wayne's Almost Famous downtown at Parkview Field on Apr. 28. The featured artist this year is Certiflyyed. Admission is free.

"BOWLING OVER BULLIES"
Students Against Destructive Decisions will hold its first anti-bullying event at Westwood Lanes on Thursday Mar. 29 from 4-6 p.m. Admission is $8 for up to two hours of unlimited bowling and pizza.

LUNCHTIME ROSE SALE
Key Club's annual spring rose sale ends tomorrow. Roses are sold during all lunch modules and will be delivered Apr. 20 during seventh period. Profits go to support Key Club's activities and projects.

Band director collects items for Henryville

Steve Barber gathers, transports supplies to provide aid for nearby, tornado-stricken town

By Megan Cater
Writer

Students helped in the efforts to support Henryville, Indiana in the week following the destruction it witnessed. Due to the devastation the tornadoes caused in southern Indiana, the town of Henryville was heavily damaged. The band had a truck where people could bring items or money to donate outside of the building for the week following the tragedy.

The tornadoes in Henryville caused significant damage to the town. Henryville is located in southern Indiana, just north of the Kentucky border. The town of Henryville has about 3,000 people. The tornadoes destroyed everything. Marysville, a town located near Henryville, had a population of about 1,900 people. This whole town was in ruins. Henryville and surrounding towns lost necessities that are a daily part of life such as power and running water.

Band director Steve Barber used to be a band director in Henryville and his wife used to be a teacher there, so they had a special connection with the school and the community. Knowing the surroundings and environment of Henryville, Barber wanted to make sure that they were getting the proper help they needed to recover from this tragedy. Because this disaster affected our community, the band and the SACS community felt the need to help out in some way.

"Several of us got together, including my wife and other SACS staff, and we decided we needed to help people in their time of need," Barber said. "We knew we had the

▶ SEE 'HENRYVILLE,' PAGE 2

THE FINAL COUNT

▶▶CONFERENCE CONTINUED FROM 1

–making statements they wouldn't make in person," Kintz said.

During this discussion, conference attendees had the opportunity to question the panel. One concern was discussed at length when parents questioned whether they had responsibility over other students' misuse of their computers, and the general consensus was that it was comparable to underage drinking in their home.

"[The school] does not have the time or resources to monitor every student's Facebook or Twitter account, nor is it our job," Kintz said. "Parents must monitor student internet use."

They also defined cyber-bulling and warned parents of some of the signs of cyber-bullying. These signs include sadness, anxiety, being secretive about computer usage or any sudden change in behavior, according to Hutner.

Tae Kwon Do instructor leads a demonstration on self-defense for children at the conference.

Richards addressed the legality of bullying. Although there is no current Indiana legislation directly regarding bullying, other laws taken into account when acts of bullying become criminal. For example, bullying becomes criminal with the advent of physical touching or battery, or damaging property, according to Richards.

Students present at the meeting expressed their concern with an invasion of privacy that was being advocated by the panel in order to secure the safety of students on the internet. The panel's justification was not only that the protection of students was paramount, but that students could not always be trusted.

"Kids lie to us," Herriott said.

Much of the conference involved discussion of issues with cyber-bullying entering into the school environment through social networking sites.

"Facebook is a huge problem. We like to refer to it as the devil here," Herriott said.

Although it discussed at length the negative aspects of social networking, the panel also addressed the merits of using such websites.

"We have to teach people how to use the social network positively," Gorman said.

Administrators are confident that discussion of these issues will continue in the future, and parents, students and staff will be able to educate themselves about new technologies and possible negative consequences.

"This meeting started the conversation that I hope we can keep going. Every piece of technology has opportunities and unintended consequences," School Social Worker Anita Gross said.

The Anti-Bullying Task Force organized the conference in order to ensure that parents and students were informed about the dangers of using digital communication and the ways they could use could utilize the internet positively and safely. The recent implementation of the 1:1 computing program at the middle school level and possibility for the adoption of this program at the high school level provided another opportunity to discuss issues regarding digital citizenship.

"Digital Citizenship is something we've started to advocate with 1:1," Gorman said. "We are beginning to introduce students to e-learning capabilities. We're trying to provide guidance."

The Anti-Bullying Task Force was formed when concern arose among parents about the presence of bullying in the district.

"I got involved because it's important to make sure our kids are safe, and if there's any bullying going on in the school system, we'd like to empower the kids to know how to handle it," Kathy O'Shaughnessy, Anti-Bullying Task Force volunteer, said.

In addition to the panel discussion held in the community room, the cafeteria was open for elementary students to learn about the reality of bullying and how to handle it with programs by Stop Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) and the American Taekwondo Association (ATA). Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) members and Key Club volunteers escorted attendees to designated areas.

"This conference was necessary because it is important for kids to know how to use digital communication correctly and safely, and it is important for parents to know how to help their kids navigate the internet safely," O'Shaughnessy said.

HOMESTEAD DEBUNKED

Myth: After Principal Rick Smith sent an email to staff about excessive amounts of students swearing, concern about stricter punishment for swearing arose.

Status: False - Smith's email is a reminder to teachers that no matter the location in the school, swearing is intolerable. Punishment for swearing will not change.

Teachers will employ the same punishments but will enforce those punishments with more vigor.

"You don't really hear it in classrooms, but you hear it in the hallway. But I don't know how to tell who said it," history teacher Jon Baker said. "There was something brought up at faculty advisory: if you hear it, you can take action."

In the student handbook, swearing falls under the category of disruptive conduct: "Students shall not use any form of profanity, written or oral, including but not limited to the use of…behaviors…that tend to intimidate, threaten or harass an individual or otherwise interfere with school purposes." Possible consequences for swearing include class suspensions, an ISS for 3-5 days, an OSS for 3-5 days and a recommendation for expulsion.

"[Swearing has] never been okay," U.S. Government teacher Keith Potter said. "If you hear the offenders using obscene language, send them to the appropriate discipline office. It's just a matter of stricter enforcement. If a student cooperates, it won't be an issue. It slips for everybody, but we just need to address it."

Punishing students for swearing is meant to make the school a more wholesome environment.

"Rules about inappropriate behavior are to protect the quality of the culture of the school. They ensure that the school is a safe place," guidance counselor Brian Dobias said.

While the definition of swearing is not universal, the school classifies any profane term that would not be used in front of parents or in front of other respected adults as swearing.

Teachers and students are not always in accord about punishable offenses, and the reduction of swearing is tentative.

–Dana Hart

▶▶HENRYVILLE CONTINUED FROM 1

means to make this happen. We have a truck, and we decided that would be the perfect opportunity to accept donations to send down there."

Although the fundraiser was sponsored by the band and band members' parents, the donation opportunity was open to the public. It became not only school-wide but a community project; even several churches got involved. There was a truck outside Door #1 for a week that was labeled "Homestead for Henryville." Students, parents and the general public could come to this truck to drop off their donation items. The products that were most asked for were hygiene products, gently used clothing, water bottles, storage containers and school supplies.

"I donated a bunch of storage containers because I didn't need them as much as they did, and I wanted to help out another community when they needed it," Jaspreet Kaur (9) said.

Students helped with donations and the loading of the truck throughout the week.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM BROWN

Band members and their families load boxes of supplies into a truck to bring aid to the tornado-damaged community of Henryville. The project was also open to the public, and several churches also participated.

"To help promote 'Homestead for Henryville' I put up a website that allowed users to share with Facebook and send in electronic donations," band member Will Reiske (12) said. "The band sent out flyers and talked to radio stations. We were even on the news several times."

In all, the band raised around $10,000 in donations and collected around 40 tons of supplies, according to Reiske. The truck of supplies left on Saturday, Mar. 10 at 7 am. The band is still collecting monetary donations that will be sent to the town of Henryville.

"It's really quite an honor that I was able to help, along with the other members of the band program and everybody that took the time out of their days to help support Henryville in a time of need," Reiske said.

▶▶LILLY GRANT CONTINUED FROM 1

Paris and London. At their stop in Naples, they will visit the Fontanelle Cemetery, which is home to the graves of victims of the plague, and while in London they will visit Smithfield Cemetery, which held the remains which were used to establish the plague bacteria's DNA. Other highlights of the trip include plans to visit museums with plague exhibits, plague burial places and St. Mary's Church, which has graffiti that was scratched into the wall by plague victims.

"This project will allow me to experience storytelling in a new way."

CONNIE CHRISTOPHERSEN
English Teacher

Both teachers hope to improve their abilities using the unique perspective provided by the experience.

"This trip will renew the exhilaration I first felt as a young college student who saw a cell through a microscope," Rietdorf said, in the proposal.

Christophersen also hopes for a change in perspective in her own field.

"This project will allow me to experience storytelling in a new way," Christophersen said.

A major focus of the trip is the way that technology impacts both teachers' fields.

"During my career I've seen a shift in the way we interact with language," Christophersen said. "I've gone from the typewriter to the computer and, to a limited extent, Facebook and Tweets."

The trip also aims to bring an added level of relevance to the topic of the plague.

"Working on an e-book that shows the science of then and now would not only be a life-time opportunity for me, but also a strategy that would make this tragedy more relevant to 21st century learners," Rietdorf said.

Other teachers have also received this grant, including English teacher Steve Clough and assistant principal Steve Lake. Clough, according to assistant principal Dianne Moake, has also been instrumental in "helping many teachers with their proposals."

▶▶HOOSIER HERO CONTINUED FROM 1

of obstacles in his life, he's come through them with admirable effort and dedication and done what he thought was best for our family," Kim said. "That's been an inspiration for me 'as I've gone through my academic career and will go through in college."

Kim originally wrote her essay to complete an assignment for Connie Christophersen's AP Composition class.

"I thought [the contest] was a good opportunity. I entered because Mrs. Christophersen encouraged all of us to," Kim said.

Christophersen has been having students enter for "four or five years" after she decided to reexamine the curriculum in AP Composition.

"I try to include prompts that are authentic, and I look for writing contests that the students can enter," Christophersen said.

Christophersen attributes Kim's success in the competition to talent and skills she picked up in class.

"A lot of the writing qualities that I think help made [Kim's essay] a success are what we talked about in AP Composition early in the year," Christophersen said. "It was well-written from the heart because she believed what she wrote."

The Hoosier Heroes Essay Contest is just one facet of the nonprofit organization Indiana Dollars for Scholars. The organization is a network of community-based, volunteer-operated scholarship foundations in cities, towns and neighborhoods in Indiana and across the country, according to its website. It was established in 1964 and has granted over $40 million to Indiana high school students to assist them in attending college.

As a winner, Kim receives a $2000 college scholarship. Additionally, her hero also is awarded a $2000 scholarship to the school of his choosing. Kim's father designated Homestead to bequeath the money unto one of more students.

"The scholarship money will go to the scholarship committee, which will set the criteria and go from there," Christophersen said.

There are no set parameters for this second scholarship, and the extent in which the hero is involved is up to them. The only criterion is that the hero cannot designate that the scholarship goes to a specific student; however, he can decide, for example, that it should go to a male student studying a certain major at a particular university.

Kim, who plans to use the scholarship to study biochemistry at Indiana University in the fall, was shocked to learn she was the winner.

"I was so excited when I found out I won. I never even imagined that I could win," Kim said. "When I got the packet, I was ecstatic. It was a surprise, a great surprise."

The Hoosier Heroes Essay Contest is just one facet of the nonprofit organization Indiana Dollars for Scholars. The organization is a network of community-based, volunteer-operated scholarship foundations in cities, towns and neighborhoods in Indiana and across the country, according to its website. It was established in 1964 and has granted over $40 million to Indiana high school students to assist them in attending college.

▶▶2000

dollars that the Hoosier Hero will donate to a school, which will determine how the money will be used.

▶▶DECA CONTINUED FROM 1

than 70 high schools across Indiana.

Kim, Venkatakrishna, Jiwon Park (11), Sang Jun Park (9), Bailey Miller (10), Joey Zirille (9), Cameron Dark (11) and Ryan Green (12) advanced to nationals in their separate categories of competition. The 2012 DECA national competition will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from Apr. 27 through May 2.

"I am extremely excited for nationals," Kim said. "It was a great experience last year, and I hope this year's conference in Salt Lake City is just as engaging and enjoyable as ICDC 2011 in Orlando. Varsha and I are planning to revise and edit our paper and presentation and come up with some interactive models to use as well. It's very much research-based, and I'm excited to be able to explore the different avenues of presentation and business through such a wonderful program."

Participants that move on to the national level of competition are not only able to compete with students from around the country but to participate in many activities that the host city has to offer.

"This year's convention is in Salt Lake City, so when we're not competing, we'll be able to go skiing and snowboarding," Venkatakrishna said. "Salt Lake seems like a great venue for the competition, since I'd probably never go there otherwise. Since this is Song's and my second year, we really hope to qualify for finals at nationals."

In addition to competing with the best and the brightest students at the national DECA competition, students will also be offered tremendous networking opportunities with some of the most influential business leaders.

"CEOs from all over the country will be [at the competition], talking to students, judging students and often offering them internships," McNeal said. "It has opened up doors for high school students that normally wouldn't be opened – there are companies at nationals looking for motivated marketing students and trying to make those connections. However, what I find most exciting is seeing students grow and learn individually from DECA. The skills that students can use later in life – presentation, public speaking – are the skills that they are developing through these competitions. DECA prepares students in a different realm than what is taught at school."

the SPARTANA
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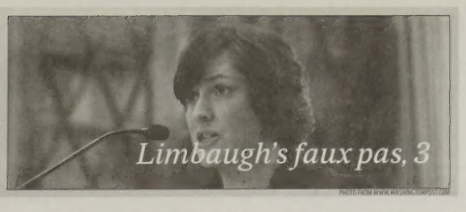
Staff members support the First Amendment in its entirety and oppose censorship in any form. The content of the paper is determined by the student staff. In cases of potentially controversial material, the Editorial Board will meet to decide the content of the newspaper. The staff will be assisted by the adviser in areas of professional ethics and legalities.

Material that is libelous or obscene as defined by Fort Wayne Newspapers or could cause a substantial and material disruption of the school day as defined by the Supreme Court will not be printed.

Southwest Allen County corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter, including controversial issues, and student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world according to Policy Number 4150.

Public input will be accepted from the Homestead community in the form of letters to the editor. Letters must follow standards concerning libel or obscenity. Those that could cause a substantial and material disruption to the school day will not be printed. Letters can be e-mailed to The Spartana at thespartana@gmail.com



Colorado seeks to regulate marijuana like alcohol

Teetotaler advocates benefits and common sense of nationally legalizing marijuana use

By Colton Shaffer
Copy Editor

A new piece of legislation is sweeping Colorado: the Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol Act of 2012. The title is self explanatory. If passed, this bill will allow people in Colorado over the age of 21 to buy or possess limited quantities of marijuana, will provide for legal cultivation of marijuana within the state and will make Colorado a much more serene place to live. America has needed to take this first step for quite some time, and one can only hope that the rest of the country follows Colorado's tentative example.

The United States' prohibition of marijuana closely resembles its prohibition of alcohol: it lacks a foundation in sound judgement.

The severity of marijuana's side effects are increasingly blown out of proportion. While there are minor side effects such as distorted perception, increased blood pressure and loss of coordination, these effects can hardly be classified as worse than those of alcohol or cigarettes. In America, alcohol is linked to approximately 75,000 deaths a year, while 443,000 people die annually from smoking or exposure to secondhand smoke.

In contrast, according to two study done by the British Medical Journal involving hundreds of thousands of people, there was no mortality increase between users and nonusers. Furthermore, several doctors have concluded that marijuana is less addictive than alcohol, cigarettes and caffeine and causes fewer withdrawal symptoms than these legal and commonly used drugs. While no drug is safe, it's certainly true that marijuana seems to pose fewer dangers to people than alcohol or cigarettes.

America needs to legalize marijuana for tax purposes alone. Considering the trillions of dollars America owes to other countries, the financial situation is dire. If marijuana were legal, the government would be able to tax the drug and would receive significant amounts of money to help pay off the national debt.

Furthermore, the economy would be stimulated by the increase of legal growers, creating jobs and revenue for many Americans. Compared to the millions of dollars gained from the taxation of cigarettes and alcohol, the potential profit to be made from taxing marijuana is staggering.

The potential benefits of legalizing marijuana don't stop at America's borders. If America were to legalize, regulate and tax marijuana, the international drug cartels that are inundating many foreign countries with violence and crime would lose a huge amount of profit. For instance, many of the drug cartels in Mexico exist to cater to the demand of Americans. Although marijuana is not the only illegal substance the cartels provide, it is by far the most commonly used illicit drug. If Americans no longer needed the cartels to provide marijuana, these cartels would certainly take a direct financial hit.

Marijuana's seeming lack of danger aside, legalizing the drug offers several benefits to the people of America, could drastically reduce the national debt and would help put a stop to international drug cartels. The United States needs to follow Colorado's example and move to legalize marijuana and regulate it like alcohol.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **16 states and Washington D.C. have legalized** medical marijuana use (New York Times)
- Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug with **42% of adults reporting use** (drugpolicy.com)
- After alcohol, marijuana is **the most popularly used drug worldwide** (World Drug Report)

Limbaugh slur shows lack of gender equality

By Clair Pranger
Opinion Co-Editor

Notorious conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh has once again been thrust into the middle of controversy, but this time it is a step beyond his usual aggravating rants. When Sandra Fluke, a female student at Georgetown University, spoke out in favor of President Obama's contraception mandate, Limbaugh denounced her as a "slut" and claimed she was having too much sex.

Obama's contraception mandate upsets conservatives because it forces insurance companies to cover contraceptives in their plans. The right wing of America, especially the religious right, thinks it is unethical and that the government should not provide for this type of medication.

But when this issue boils down to its purest essence, it is just taxpayers grumbling about having to pay more money. However, providing women the option of having contraceptives covered by their insurance will lighten the financial burden of women around the country. Fluke herself has testified that, without insurance, contraceptives can cost "as much as $3,000 a year."

The mandate, though challenged, remains in effect, and Limbaugh's verbal attack on Fluke took place on the same day of this rejected challenge, the so-called "Blunt Amendment."

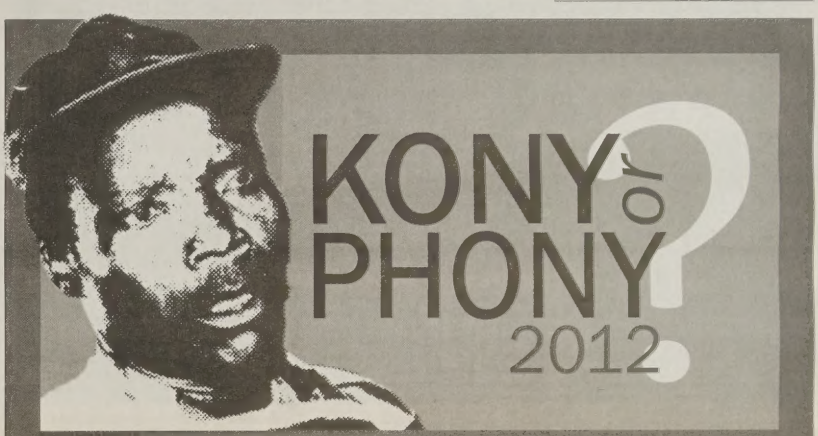
Feminists point to this sexist, boorish and misogynistic behavior as examples of why the United States still has so far to go in sexual equality. No man should presume that he knows what is best for a woman, especially when it concerns something he will never fully understand.

Women use birth control for a myriad of reasons, not just to protect against unwanted pregnancies. Birth control, for example, helps relieve symptoms of PMS, helps prevent ovarian cysts and allows for lighter, more pain-free menstrual cycles. Therefore, Limbaugh calling practically every woman on birth control a "slut" because he sees it as a simple black and white issue of just having sex is alarming. If this man has the right to influence other people's opinions through a talk show, he should at least be informed on basic knowledge like the effects of widely used medications.

Once again, this is the staunchly conservative portion of America fighting to keep the status quo and return to the days of the commonplace subjugation of women. The public outrage caused by Limbaugh's childish name-calling reflects a society finally willing to change. The time of painting women as disciples of the devil has long since past, and it is time that the hatchet be buried between the sexes.

If men can get insurance coverage for erectile dysfunction medication, then why not extend coverage for women on the pill? It is only fair.

Americans live in an era where equality is the new oxygen. The longstanding double standards in society have no place in the future of America, and the sooner conservative leaders learn this vital lesson, the sooner this country can embrace true equality.



Well-meaning pseudo-activism not sufficient to affect change

By Ryan Boylan
Opinion Co-Editor

Middle class Americans have historically been viscerally motivated to help the underprivileged citizens of third world countries. Within the past few weeks, the non-profit organization Invisible Children capitalized on this trend through a viral video titled "Kony 2012." This video reveals the past corruption of Uganda's political infrastructure at the militant hands of Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), but is achieving popularity and hype a full six years after the army largely fled from Uganda and Kony retreated into hiding from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

A vast informational gap between the average American and the rest of the world, perhaps the result of an equally sizable geographical and cultural gap, has created a rumor-based phenomenon concerning the LRA and Invisible Children. Seldom before has there been such widespread ignorance concerning the efforts of such a strongly supported charitable organization. The viral nature of the campaign combined with the oversimplified yet disturbing images presented in the video created a sense of internet mass hysteria. The rise of "pseudo-activism" among the susceptible and culturally aware mirrors lemmings jumping off of a trendy, yet misinformed, cliff. Instilling the Facebook-obsessed masses with a savior complex, the video falsely inspired a sense of personal involvement in saving the starving, impoverished African children.

One of the most prominent criticisms of Invisible Children concerns its distribution of profits. In the corporation's defense, however, the criticism of the company's outlandish marketing expenditures may not be rooted in current evidence. Since the video was released, Charity Navigator upgraded Invisible Children's reliability rating following efforts made by the charity to increase transparency.

Anyone even remotely connected to the elaborate world of social media within the past weeks can attest to the effectiveness of the "Kony 2012" marketing campaign and video, which now boasts over 100 million views on YouTube. Publicity is undoubtedly an integral aspect of fundraising and gaining support from donors large and small, which Invisible Children has, regardless of the role propaganda played in obtaining these funds, admirably used in its own favor.

Perhaps the most frustrating part of Invisible Children's success is how relevant and beneficial it would have been almost any time in the 21 years between 1987, when LRA was formed, and 2006, shortly after Kony's indictment by the ICC. Now, almost any central African programs intended to depose LRA and protect vulnerable communities from further destruction are innately futile. Not even the government of Uganda is confident enough in its evidence to postulate the troop strength of the army, and even unofficial estimates by the Institute for National Strategic Studies were in the range of 300 to 400 remaining troops, only roughly half of which are assumed to be abductees.

Invisible Children spent $3.3 million on central African programs in 2011. Distributed efficiently to the roughly 200 abducted troops, that's over $15,000 per head, which, no matter how great the cause, is more than a bit superfluous. And while that calculation may be a bit crude considering there is no conceivable way Invisible Children could directly assist each kidnapped troop, that is possibly the same reason that the corporation's efforts are so outdated and inconsequential in the first place.

It's not innately bad that American citizens are so quick to display their affluence and benevolence through altruism because these virtues are more likely than not the underlying incentive for most philanthropic deeds. That does not make it any less important, however, to regard factual reasoning rather than mere biased sympathy in choosing a charity or non-profit organization to patronize. Invisible Children is less than it seems at surface value, and anyone willing to watch a 30-minute-long video about it should consult other impartial informational sources with the same zeal.

ABOUT THE CAUSE

- Kony's Army left Uganda around 2006 (Arizona Daily Wildcat)
- Shortly after the Kony 2012 video went viral, Ugandan Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi took to Twitter with the hashtag #KonyIntinUganda (Arizona Daily Wildcat)
- Invisible Children spent nearly ten percent of its income on the creation of "awareness products" like tee shirts and bracelets. (invisiblechildren.com)

Syrian uprising demands United Nations response

PHOTO FROM THIBDAGE.COM

Syrian citizens hold public demonstrations against oppressive regimes in city streets.

By Sarah Bade
Writer

What started as simple public demonstrations over a year ago due to the ongoing internal conflict in Syria has since turned into uprisings. Public demonstrations have occurred for a multitude of reasons: an authoritarian system, the absence of an effective constitution, unemployment, corruption within the government and encouragement for coexisting regional protests.

The protesters simply wanted the resignation of Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian president, as well as democratic reforms, expanded civil rights, regime changes and a few more changes in the way of the governmental operation. However, not only have these changes not occurred, but the situation has gone from bad to worse.

The Syrian government has deployed tanks and snipers as a system to suppress the uprising. Also, security forces have resorted to commandeering flour and food.

The people of Syria need to be protected; they should not just be left to die for trying to create a better government and a better way of life.

In the past year, 230,000 Syrians have abandoned their homes, according to the United Nations. With that, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has reported that 30,000 have fled abroad while 200,000 were displaced within the borders of Syria. However, the devastation does not end with mere displacement: 8,000 people, many women and children, have been killed since the anti-government protest first began.

The tragedy that has struck this nation has only increased in the past few months, and there is no telling how much longer the government will continue attacking its own people.

Starting this past November, Syria has been laying land mines near its borders with Lebanon and Turkey. These landmines are injuring and fatally wounding mainly civilians.

Now it is time for the people of the world to help each other. The main thing that the United Nations has done is make speeches and declare that what is happening in Syria is wrong, that the actions presented by the country needs to stop, and peace needs to be found.

The situation in Syria is tragic and uncalled for. The civilians are just trying to get the justice they deserved, and now they are being treated as wild animals instead of with the kindness and respect human beings should receive. The United Nations needs to step in, in order to stop the Syrian government from thinking it has the right to slaughter its people for wanting a better way of life, help the citizens regain the rights they so naturally deserve.

PHOTO BY BOB ZIMMERMAN

PHOTO FROM BLOGSPOT.COM

Students attend midnight premiere of movie adaptation of 'The Hunger Games'

Above: A premiere attendee shoots an arrow at Rave Theater at Jefferson Pointe. Below: Hunger Games fans dress up in costumes to represent their favorite characters.

PHOTOS BY MEGGIE YAK

BY LAURA ZWEIG
Copy Editor

Students starved for entertainment flocked to movie theatres on Mar. 23 for the long-awaited release of "The Hunger Games." The first of Suzanne Collins' young adult trilogy follows Katniss Everdeen as she competes in a televised fight to the death against 23 other teenagers for the amusement of the evil Capitol.

Published in 2008, "The Hunger Games" easily grabbed fans' attention, largely in part to its fan base's collective tech-savviness.

"Someone on Twitter posted a quote from the book, and I'm a sucker for a good quote. So I looked up who said it and it was from The Hunger Games. That quote got me interested enough to read it," Emily Kaminski (11) said.

Word of mouth added to the fandom's growing numbers as friends shared the series.

"I was first interested in the book when one of my friends brought it up in a conversation," James Chen (11) said. "I checked the book out and was easily drawn in."

Passion for the story and characters led students to stay up until midnight to see the first screening of the movie.

"I lack patience. It would have killed me to wait, and the spoilers would have been everywhere," Kaminski, who attended the premiere and bought the coveted IMAX tickets, said.

Katherine Troutman (11) said she went to the premiere because of positive experiences at midnight showings for other movies.

"I love the atmospheres of midnight premieres. 99% of the people are there because they're true fans of the series. Everyone claps and cheers at the good parts together," Troutman said. "I loved the Hunger Games midnight movie, being tired the next day was definitely worth it."

It was the anticipation that drove Ashlee Nichter (12) to the midnight release.

"I went to the midnight premiere because I couldn't even wait a day to see the movie. All the anticipation got to me, and I had to be one of the first to see it. The experience was great," Nichter said.

However, fans weren't alone at the theatre that night; news outlets turned up to interview the "Hunger Games" devotees. Nichter was featured on Hot 107.9 for her enthusiasm.

Collins, who also penned the hit Nickelodeon television program "Clarissa Explains it All," adapted the film from the novel, ensuring that it be as close to the book as possible.

"While watching the movie, it brought everything from the books to life," Kaminski said. "They didn't hold back on the violence, which was great because that's a huge part of the emotional drive of the books."

Nevertheless, not all fans were satisfied with the movie's faithfulness to the plot.

"I thought that the movie was interesting, but it lacked some assets that made the book popular," Chen said. "There were many small details that were not needed that were excluded from the movie; though they were not necessary, the small details made the book much more interesting than the movie."

Moviegoers who hadn't read the books were just as wrapped up in the plot as the longtime fans.

"Honestly, I've never read the books. I just can't get my 18-year-old self to read a book meant for the younger generations. I understand that it's a page-turner though," Sirena Hudson (12) said. "You know how good movies are, they're over in a second because you get caught up in all the action. That's what I felt like."

Because it features a love triangle between Katniss (played by Jennifer Lawrence), fellow tribute Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) and hunting companion Gale Hawthorne (Liam Hemsworth), the movie is drawing unwanted comparisons to the "Twilight" franchise.

"The idea of the Team 'Insert attractive guy's name here' was a bit silly. It makes it seem that more people went to the movie to see the male characters over the story," Chen said.

Despite the Team Gale and Team Peeta division, all fans seem to be united under one idea: they would fail in the arena.

"I would be terrible in the Hunger Games. I have no fighting skills whatsoever," Troutman said. "The only survival skills I have are from my years in girl scouts; I can start a fire, tie four types of knots, make ice cream in a can and sell girl scout cookies."

MEET THE CAST

JOSH **HUTCHERSON**/
PEETA **MELLARK**
- Age: 19
- Known For: *Bridge to Terabithia* (2007)
- Character's Biggest Scene: professing his love for Katniss in his interview

JENNIFER **LAWRENCE**/
KATNISS **EVERDEEN**
- Age: 20
- Known For: *Winter's Bone* (2010)
- Character's Biggest Scene: shooting the apple in the pig's mouth in evaluation

LIAM **HEMSWORTH**/
GALE **HAWTHORNE**
- Age: 21
- Known For: *The Last Song* (2010)
- Character's Biggest Scene: reassuring Katniss before the Games begin

PHOTOS FROM FLIKER.COM

Student participates in state ballroom dance competitions

Ballroom dancing is a dying art, but with her rewarding hobby, Maddie Weber (11) is keeping it alive. At American Style Ballroom, Weber both performs ballroom dancing and competes in ballroom dancing competitions.

Spartana: When did you start ballroom dancing?

Weber: I started ballroom dancing at 14. Now, I'm 16 and I'm taking private classes. When I was younger, before ballroom, I did jazz and ballet, and having that dancing experience in the past has really helped me in the present.

Spartana: What kind of dances do you participate in?

Weber: The types of dances I do are waltz, Viennese waltz, foxtrot, tango, bolero, rumba, cha cha, east coast swing, hustle, samba, mambo, salsa and merengue.

Spartana: What are the competitions like?

Weber: I just had a competition Feb. 26 in Merrillville, Indiana, and it was the state competition. I danced on Sunday, but [I] danced 24 times during the whole competition. I placed and got [both] 16 first places and four second places. I got ribbons for those and then, I did two different multi-dances: one for smooth and one for rhythm. I got firsts for both of those as well and got medals. Then, I got a participation trophy.

Spartana: Usually, how many competitors are there?

Weber: For this competition, there were at the most seven different couples out on the dance floor at once. Sometimes it was just me and my partner. Other times, we would do four or five dances in a row.

Spartana: How rigorous is the practice schedule?

Weber: I dance from four to eight hours a week. On Wednesdays, I get done dancing at 10 p.m. and get home by 10:30 p.m. Dance takes up a lot of time.

> "Sometimes, it is hard to juggle school and dance... But, I really love it and would go every day if I could."
>
> **MADDIE WEBER (11)**
> *Ballroom Dancer*

Spartana: Is it difficult to balance school work and your dancing?

Weber: Sometimes, it is hard to juggle school and dance. I do a lot of clubs, such as being on the board for International Club, and I also do numerous church activities. However, dance is what I do most and during some weeks I do almost ten hours of dance, which can be very stressful, but, I really love it and would go every day if I could.

Spartana: Are you considering going professional?

Weber: People will sometimes joke and say I could be the next person on "Dancing with the Stars." I personally think that would be a great opportunity, and I would love to be given the chance to do something like that. For right now, I'm trying to find a college that has a ballroom dance club or something similar to that in a big town so that I can continue dancing.

Student government opens annual blood drive to public participation

BY AARIKA MANKEY
Writer

Just one pint of blood can save up to three lives, but according to the American Red Cross Organization only three out of 100 people in America donate blood. On March 21 from noon to 6:00 p.m., individuals who were applicable and willing met in the Community Room to donate their time and blood to a worthy cause. The event was sponsored by both student government and the American Red Cross.

Unlike previous years, for a designated period of time, the Blood Drive was open to the public, allowing anyone eligible to donate blood. According to the Red Cross, anyone who meets the requirements may both donate blood every 56 days and donate platelets as few as seven days apart but a maximum of 24 times a year.

Jeanine Miller, head of Student Government and coordinator of the Blood Drive, said that this year's Blood Drive was a success.

"As the advisor for Student Government, I love that we have the opportunity to give back in such a personal way," Miller said.

In order to be eligible to donate blood, students must be either sixteen years old and have parental or guardian approval or be seventeen years old. To ensure that donors are healthy, before donating, they must take blood pressure, blood count and temperature tests. Also, if a student wishes to donate blood during the school day, he or she must have a study hall period during which he may leave.

Often, Blood Drive participants have specific reasons or specific motivations for donating blood while still in high school.

"I choose to participate because I know it makes a difference in peoples' lives," blood drive participant Dashean Jordan (10) said. "I believe that I as a member of Student Government, and [that] we as a school should promote giving blood for such an important cause."

For most people, it is difficult to imagine a life where blood transfusions are necessary. However, more than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day, and just a single donation can save up to three lives. Whether they are car accident victims, cancer or transplant patients or people with sickle cell disease or other blood disorders, donors may be the last hope for another person. Blood donations not only save lives but also strengthen communities.

"I think it's a great cause, and blood doesn't scare me, so I figure that since I have plenty of it, why not take some out of me. Plus, you get cookies," several time blood donor Stephen Libbing (12) said.

▶▶43,000

pints of blood are donated daily in the United States and Canada that can save over 129,000 lives in blood transfusions, but 4.5 million people will need a blood transfusion this year. The blood is distributed to hospitals nationwide through the American Red Cross.

Anxious peers begin preparing for prom too early

I'm aware that prom is significantly more important than any other high school dance. It's juniors and seniors only. Exclusive. It's held at the Grand Wayne Center, home of FAME, the Tri-State Dairy Nutrition Conference and the most magical night of your life. I've heard talk that there are even chairs to sit on. It's kind of a big deal.

It's also almost two months away. But you'd think it was next week by the number of people buying dresses, securing dates and crushing their self-esteems. If you haven't been preparing for this night since your first viewing of "Pretty in Pink," here's a somewhat sarcastic list of things to get started on. Go.

DANYELLING

BY DANI CASTONZO
Life Co-Editor

Girls:

1. Buy a prom dress as soon as possible, preferably two years in advance. You won't have to go through the hassle of buying one when everyone else does, and (with the help of school cookies) it'll be nice and tight for that special day.

2.Von Maur isn't going to cut it for this most magical of nights. Find something vintage, foreign or so expensive that no one else could possibly afford it. After this one-of-a-kind dress has been secured, don't forget to bring something to defile any other girl's dress that may resemble yours. You wouldn't want anyone wearing the same thing that you are.

3.Buy a pair of four-inch heels that won't match anything else you own. Immediately upon entering the dance, remove them so you're no longer towering over your date. That was $200 well spent.

4. Speaking of tight dresses and clothing in general, start dieting. Immediately. If the situation is dire, resort to nothing but water and plain lettuce by the handful.

5. Prepare mentally as well as physically by working prom into every conversation and thought that you have.

6. You already have a dress, so you better get a date. Make sure your desired prom date knows that you're available. Work it casually into conversation with lines like "So my friend's boyfriend just asked her to prom. Isn't that sweet!" or "Hey, ask me to prom." These subtle hints are a surefire way to get him to ask you. If the situation grows desperate, don't hesitate to start sobbing. That'll show him what a great date you'll be.

7. If he doesn't ask you, have a pity date or two on the back burner. You didn't eat lettuce for two months for nothing.

8. Prepare an elaborate stash of hair and make-up products for your two-hour primping session. You won't use most of them, but you'll feel extremely prepared.

9. On the night of, your hair should be as visible and indestructible as possible. Apply excessive amounts of mousse to make your hair double its normal size. Gather it on top of your head and empty the entire contents of your hairspray on it. Once it's permanently styled in that position, you're ready to roll.

> "Don't hesitate to start sobbing. That'll show him what a great date you'll be."
> **DANI CASTONZO**

10. Once you've squeezed into your dress and solidified your hair, embark on an elegant walk down the stairs. Make sure someone's waiting at the bottom with a camera because there's no way you're making it down twice in those shoes.

11. Photo time. Plan out a variety of unnatural poses involving things like corsages, stairs and fireplaces. You need something to reminisce on in twenty years.

12. Once you've left the house, the event will seem significantly less fun; however, make awkward small talk, laugh excessively, compliment his tie for the third time and gush over the limo you forced him to rent. Expect the night to go downhill from there until after prom.

For the guys:

1.Ask your desired prom date out in the most cheesy and elaborate way that you can think of. Write it in the sky. Spell it out with diamond earrings. Compose a romantic song and serenade her.

2. Show up on time, with a classy corsage and a smile. You'll need it for that hour long photo shoot.

3.Yeah, that's pretty much it. Boys.

Bottom line: Prom is not that big a deal. So make an effort not to embarrass yourself and just have fun.

Mobile applications prevalent among students

BY COLBY SHOUP
Writer

Every morning before school, rows and rows of kids click away on their cell phone screens, trying to beat the latest high score on Temple Run or trying to win a tough round of Draw Something. In a matter of years, apps have gone from the new kids in the tech world to big money-makers.

The freedom associated with the app business gives any tech genius an opportunity to make a profit, including students. William Reiske (11) is one example, whose technological hobby resulted in his employment at Medical Informatics Engineering.

"I spend most of my time outside of school, and sometimes even in school, working on apps or websites," Reiske said. "A project I'm working on now is implementing functionality for Facebook, Android and iOS devices for the use of our [Medical Informatics Engineering's] products."

It was only a year ago that Reiske was making apps for fun on his computer. However, after the release of his one-dollar Android app that pushes the phone's alarm clock back two hours on delay days, he had made $40,488.

Reiske isn't the only one making a big profit on the app market. One of the most popular apps on the market is Temple Run. According to app store executives, this simple game averages 50,000 downloads a day and after becoming a free app has quadrupled its income. The app was created by Keith Shepherd of Imangi Studios, along with his wife Natalia Luckyanova and graphic artist Kiril Tachangov.

"Temple Run was our first truly free game, so we didn't quite know how it would work out. Once Temple Run went free, a lot more people started playing the game," Shepherd said. "A small amount of the people playing the game bought the In-App coin packs, and because there were more people playing the game, more people bought the stuff inside the game."

It took only three people to make the app, but Temple Run is played on a daily basis by millions of people worldwide. One player is Drake White (9).

"I usually use apps every day," White said. "An app usually becomes addictive for me if it offers hours of entertainment, and not just the same thing over and over."

According to Reiske, making normal apps is easy, but game apps are an entirely different concept.

"We always start with an idea followed by a simple prototype to try out the idea," Shepherd said. "Once we are happy with the core nugget of game play, we start working on fleshing that idea out more and turning it into a full blown game. Then there is always lots of testing and tweaking to get it just right."

According to Shepherd, making the game took almost six months, but making the app was only the beginning. They spent another six months updating and improving the game for its rapidly-growing fan base.

From Temple Run to the daily weather report, the newfound popularity of apps is a money-making opportunity for almost anyone.

"An app can be something as simple as pressing a button on your phone and having a message pop up saying 'hello,' or it can be a full blown application that does some complex tasks," Reiske said.

PHOTOS COURTESY BOB ZIMMERMAN

Annual dance marathon raises funds for athletic department

BY WILLIAM NGO
Writer

For the twenty-fourth consecutive year, students danced the night away during the annual Dance Marathon. The event was held on Mar. 16-17, and a substantial amount of money was collected, making the event a successful fundraiser for the athletics department.

To participate in the overnight activity, each participant was called to raise a minimum of $100. Though the figure may have sounded lofty to some, the proceeds were not in vain. The event raised more than $21,000 to go toward the school's large array of sport clubs. The funds will assist in the teams' funding in purchasing necessary equipments, uniforms, banners, etc.

The Dance Marathon offers more than the name suggests. On top of endless dancing, the fundraiser had a number of sports that students could play, including a volleyball tournament. The tournament, exclusive to girls, allowed them to form teams and compete against one another. The winning group was crowned as champions for the night. Zumba, "Minute to Win It" inspired games and limbo were also offered.

"It was impossible to get bored," Grayson Bastin (11) said. "This year, Dance Marathon shifted towards more athletic activities to keep kids involved."

While the guys did not get to compete in volleyball, there was still an ample number of other sports to play, including basketball, dodge ball and kickboxing.

Despite the hours of fun, the marathon partakers were also given the opportunity to rest. When the students were drained of energy, they were able to sleep at the school at 3 a.m., only to awake four hours later for more dancing.

In addition to the dance activities, one of the noteworthy highlights of the Dance Marathon for some individuals is the food. To ward off hunger and provide students with energy, various restaurants such as Pizza Hut, Bandidos and Chipotle catered the event.

Bastin, for instance, said he favors dinner time at Dance Marathon. Bastin has attended the Dance Marathon every year since he was a freshman and has strong intentions of going his senior year too.

"It gets better every year, and I'm definitely going to do it next year," Grayson said.

As a special incentive, students who partake in the Dance Marathon for all four years of high school receive a distinctive blanket to commemorate their participation. This year, Chelsey Thomas (12) was proud to have joined that league. Thomas made a return to the dance floor yet again to be a part of this traditional school event. Students new and old attend Dance Marathon to create unforgettable memories that last for a lifetime.

Jordin McCoy (10) and Kylie Burton (11) both agree that the event seems to get better with every passing year.

"[Dance Marathon] is seriously the best time ever," Burton said. "You are with your friends, and you are free to do whatever for 24 hours."

It can be said that the Dance Marathon provides ample opportunity for students to meet new people and socialize. One example was the interactive, entertaining game of Ships and Sailors. This nautical-themed game required students to communicate with each other while generating a number of laughs.

In Ships and Sailors, a "caller" called out an instruction for students to act out. For instance, "hit the deck" would mean the players needed to swiftly position themselves down on the ground. "Calls" such as these were randomly decided. Therefore, students who participated did not know who they were going to be paired with. Round by round, players were eliminated if they failed to follow the rules. Ships and Sailors allowed students to break the ice with one another in a fun and playful way.

"Dance Marathon really unites students, and that's why I come back," second time marathon participant McCoy said.

With its large selection of sports, games and social opportunities, the event remains one of the school's most successful fundraisers.

"I come back every year because I love being with all the people," Thomas said.

1. Enthusiastic students dance to their favorite songs. 2. For the Minute to Win It competition, dancers participated in activities like tug-of-war to win prizes. 3. Rachel Torres (11) works with her partner to move on to the next round of the Minute to Win It game. 4. Dance Marathon also offered Zumba and ballroom dancing lessons for participants.

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PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Boys' basketball wins sectional title, loses first regional appearance

By Tyler Kotesky
Writer

The boys' basketball team reached the regional championship by defeating the Northrop Bruins, who were ranked 11th in the state. The boys created a little March Madness of their own, avenging a 12 point regular season loss. However, upon reaching the regional championship, the Spartans fell to Carmel, 48-39.

Just a month ago, the team seemed destined for postseason troubles. Heading into the postseason, the team had lost two of its last three regular season battles, including a 72-60 loss to Northrop. However, the team came back with two strong games that led to its first sectional championship since 2002, but the team didn't stop there.

The team would play the winner of the Carroll Regional: Northrop. The Bruins were perhaps the last team the Spartans wanted to play. Northrop was one of the best 4A teams in the area as the SAC champion. The Bruins' success was achieved in part by two notorious junior twins, Brenton and Bryson Scott.

The Spartans, however, came in with a lot of momentum, following the sectional title. "The atmosphere of the first game was intense because everyone wanted to see Northrop lose," Seth Coate (11) said. "We had great support throughout the whole tournament." Coate finished an impressive game with 19 points and nine rebounds. The game remained close for the most part. At halftime, the Spartans led by three points.

By the end of the game, the team had extended its unexpected lead to seven points. Although Northrop kept the game close, the Spartans showed their confidence and avenged their regular season loss, winning 69-62. Zach Terrell (12) led the team with 21 points, and Nick Gamble (11) added 17. A very offensive approach by both teams led to a fairly high scoring.

The victory meant that the boys would have to play the Carmel Greyhounds later that same day. Just six hours after their first regional game finished, the Spartans had to compete with the fourth-ranked team at the 4A level.

> "The atmosphere of the first game was so intense because everyone wanted to see Northrop lose."
>
> **SETH COATE (11)**
> *Varsity player*

By 8 o'clock that night, the Spartans were ready to play. The team competed with the very talented Greyhounds. The last time the Spartans reached the regional final was 1992, but in its rich history, the team has never won regionals.

The game featured wonderful defensive effort by both teams. The team held Carmel to 17 for 45 from the field. However, the Spartans were also held to a low field goal percentage. "Both teams seemed to struggle making baskets due to, in my opinion, having to play two mentally and physically tough games in one day," Head Coach Chris Johnson said. "I also thought both teams played very good defense against one another by contesting shots." This defensive talent led to both team's inability to score often.

At halftime, it was 26-24 with Carmel leading. The intensity rose, as did the volume in Bill Green Athletic Arena. When a foul was called, the opposing student section would roar in disbelief. The Spartan defense wreaked havoc on the Greyhound offense by switching up defensive looks. With about two minutes left, Carmel was ahead 39-38, and it seemed like a fascinating finish was destined to happen.

In the last two minutes, however, Carmel gained momentum and finished on a 9-1 run. Thus, the Spartans search for their first regional title ended in a 48-39 loss to Carmel.

They finished their best season by record at 23-3. They also were the closest they have ever been to achieving a regional title. "I was very proud of our kids all season long on how well they played together," Coach Johnson said. "This team will be remembered for their hard work and effort for a long time." Coach Johnson will always be remembered as giving Homestead their first sectional win in ten years. No one expected them to win sectionals or go on a 19 game win streak, but this team shocked many by becoming one of the most successful teams in school history.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Kyle Galovich (12) amplifies the intensity at their Sectional game which Homestead won their first Sectional title since 2002.

BEST OF THE 2012 SEASON

1. Homestead wins Sectionals
2. Victory over Norwell
3. Declared Team of the Week
4. Seth Coate (11) dunks
5. First win over Merrillville

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Junior athlete fights through injuries, displays courage

Running back Grayson Bastin (11) shifted his feet anxiously behind quarterback Zach Terrell (12) prior to the snap of a play in the first quarter of a highly anticipated football game against rival Carroll High School on Friday, Sept. 30. Terrell hiked the ball and handed it off to Bastin, who surged through a gap in the offensive line with his sights set on scoring a touchdown. By the time the play was over, Bastin did not see the end zone; rather, he clenched his eyes in an excruciating pain as he clung to his knee.

After Bastin cleared a first-down, an opponent stuck him awkwardly in his lower body. Though he did not know exactly had happened, Bastin knew the pain he felt in his knee was serious. The doctor later determined that he dislocated his knee cap, bruised a bone in his joint and tore his MCL during the hit. Moreover, an MRI showed pieces of cartilage had chipped off his knee cap and prevented the function of proper knee rotation. Bastin underwent an immediate operation to remove this cartilage so that he could return to the field as quickly as possible.

The football team missed Bastin's contribution during the time that they expected to be a quick recovery. He was a full-time starter and scored five touchdowns during his sophomore year. This year, he scored 12 touchdowns, averaged seven yards per carry and earned recognition as a running back on the first-team all NHC Conference. The team needed him back on the field as soon as possible. Six months later, Bastin remains confined to a pair of crutches.

Bastin's battle with injuries began with his urgency to return to the field after undergoing the first surgery.

The Average Joe

By Joe Laughlin
Sports Editor

"I did wonder if I was ever going to be an effective football player again," Bastin said. "But after watching the guys at practice, I knew I had to get back out there."

A brief two weeks passed before Bastin played again in uniform under the stadium lights. Reinvigorated by the time he spent on the sidelines, he trained and performed as ruthlessly as he had before the injury. He concluded the regular season on a high note by propelling the team to an NHC Conference Championship. In the first game of the postseason, however, Bastin sustained another injury, this time to his foot, which would place him in a protective boot for four weeks.

Once liberated from the boot, Bastin returned to his laboratory, the weight room, to prepare for the next season; however, the weakness of his foot caused him to shift most of his weight onto his other leg, which put greater stress on the previously injured knee. His high-intensity work outs led to the return of an incessant pain in his knee. Bastin consulted with a doctor, who crushed his hopes of an early return to football by ordering Bastin to undergo a second operation in order to shave a larger part of cartilage from his knee. With the prolonged disappointment, Bastin gradually began a new battle brought on by the anxiety and restriction of being injured.

"I had never sat out of a football game in my life up to that point," Bastin said. "It really stung."

Over this six-month period, Bastin regretfully missed three high school football games, offseason training sessions and showcases for college recruitment. The injuries forced Bastin out of the action. For the first time in his career, he could neither train nor compete with his teammates. Moreover, the frightening possibility remained that he might not recover to be the dominant force on the field that he once was.

Bastin, however, hardly saw the injuries as a force that would permanently prevent him from fulfilling his goals; instead, he challenged them as temporary trials to conquer.

"I was definitely discouraged right after the first injury occurred," Bastin said. "But I was ready to overcome the obstacle after giving my recovery a lot of thought."

Now having experienced his second surgery, Bastin will endure a tough regimen of physical therapy, which he will have every day for one to two months. Fortunately, his doctors predict that by the completion of his physical therapy, he will have made a full recovery.

His journey back to the field has been painful, and he still has a long, arduous road ahead of him. While the team will be glad to have its offensive threat return to training, Bastin continues to assists the team off the field in a way that is much harder to recognize than points-scored and yards-gained. He taught the team perseverance. He showed his teammates, his coaches, and his peers the true definition of courage. He showed his fellow athletes that strength extended beyond a workout in the weight room. He faced adversity that was out of control, and then he encountered more of it; however, he would let nothing prevent him from being successful.

As a testament to his work ethic, he was honored at the conclusion of last season with an award that recognized an athlete who played by three simple words: "Never say die."

Senior track star reflects on past, sets goals for his final season

Among many other athletes senior Kyle Lake (12) has had remarkable success in football but currently his main focus is the up and coming track season. Lake's hard work and dedication has not only earned him a great amount of respect from his peers, and coaches, but he has also been awarded with several unique opportunities and victories in his track career.

Spartana: How long have you been running track?

Lake: I've been running for seven years now.

Spartana: What events do you run?

Lake: I run the 100 meter dash, the 4 by 1 relay, and the 200 meter dash.

Spartana: What awards have you won in high school track?

Lake: I have won most improved sprinter, first team all-conference 4 by 1, 2nd team all-conference 200, and I won the 200 at sectionals last year.

Spartana: What would you like to accomplish this season?

Lake: I would like to break the school record for the 200 meter dash, win conference and sectionals, and go to state in the 200 and 4 by 1.

Spartana: Do you plan to run track in college? If so, where?

Lake: Not currently, but I may change my mind.

Spartana: Since track is an individual sport, what are the relationships like between you and your teammates and coaches, and how do you maintain them throughout the season?

Lake: You tend to get closer with the coach you work with the most, so since I sprint, I'm closer to Dillman and to maintain relationships between other sprinters we cheer each other on in the events we run and the relays learn to work well together and get along.

Spartana: Has there been a defining moment in your track career that you are most proud of?

Lake: Over the summer while I ran with Fort Wayne Express, I qualified for the Junior Olympics in Wichita Kansas and got to run with the fastest high school kids in the nation.

Spartana: What has been your biggest challenge since you have started running track?

Lake: My biggest challenge is fighting through a string of injuries that I had last year and continuing to push myself every day during practice.

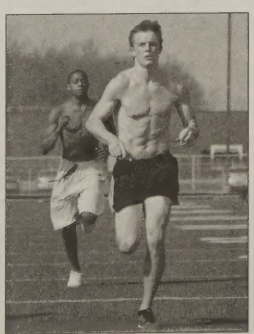


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Kyle Lake (12) is shown participating in track practice. Lake has been one of the star performers for the Boys' track team and, leading into his senior year, he has many goals he hopes to accomplish before the season is over.

SPRING SPORTS preview

girls' TENNIS

In comparison to last year, the girls' tennis team is expected to repeat a season of few losses and make it far into the post season.

Last year, the team only lost one game during the regular season. In the postseason, the team advanced to Regionals but lost its last match to Bishop Dwenger. Though the team graduated many seniors, the returning athletes are confident they will be able to recreate the postseason success that the team experienced last year.

"We have won conference many years before, and even though we lost some players, I still think we can go for the win," Kelsey Vessels (11) said.

Although the team is still going through the try-out process, the roster will not likely contain many seniors. The team is fortunate to have retained several players who are expected to make a strong impact on the team, including Allison Overlander (11), Hanita Epstein (11) and Andrea Stephens (10). These remaining players will work hard to better themselves and encourage the rest of their teammates to improve as well.

"This year we all look forward to challenging ourselves," Stephens said.

Once the final stages of tryouts are completed, the team will prepare for its first match in mid-April. The relatively young team is eager to test its capabilities against the competition.

"This year should be fun and exciting because we have many players that are young and will be a good addition this year and return next year," Vessels said.

-Haiden Steingass

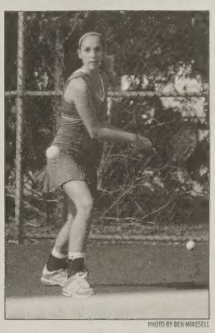


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Kelsey Vessels (11) lines up to return a serve during practice drilling.

RUGBY

Known for its dedication, hard work and refusal to acknowledge poor weather, the boys' rugby team is anticipating another strong season.

Last year, the team won every game it played in the Northeast division for Indiana Rugby, but tragically lost the first game in the state tournament. Though last year's team was successful, the team graduated many seniors who had a great impact on the team.

"We had a pretty good team last year, mostly led by seniors that graduated," Hunter Brutton (12) said.

This year, the team is much younger and is hungry to prove itself again as a dominant force in Northeast Indiana.

"There are a lot of new players this year, which is great," Brutton said. "Our new coach and our other returning coach are doing a great job getting us ready."

This year's team has double the number of players on the roster as last year and is coming together quickly. Several of the new players were intrigued to learn a new sport and to be involved on the team this year.

"I came out because it simply looked like a blast to play," Casey Nice (10), a new addition to the team, said.

> "I CAN SEE US **MAKING A NAME FOR OURSELVES** IN INDIANA RUGBY."
> *Hunter Brutton (12)*

After its first time competing, the team has gained confidence in its abilities. Looking ahead at the rest of the season, the athletes are excited to establish its dominance throughout the state.

"We looked like a team playing our first match," Brutton said. "I can see us making a name for ourselves in Indiana Rugby."

-Jacob Cook

SOFTBALL

With the first few days of training underway, the softball team is beginning to develop a team chemistry that will likely lead the team to a successful season.

The majority of the team is young, but they are still expected to reach the same level of talent and strength as their fellow players.

"We have some girls that are really stepping up and are willing to be put in positions we need them in," Bailey Wills (11) said. "I expect to have a pretty decent season based on how our practices have been going so far."

Last year, the team lacked upperclassmen; however, the relatively young team earned a record of 19 wins and nine losses. The girls made it to the final game in sectionals, where they played Huntington North High School. As a consistently challenging rival, Huntington North was able to squeeze out a win over the Spartans.

Hoping to surpass the achievements made last season, the Spartans aim to win the NHC Conference and advance past sectional competition. If the current work rate continues, the prospects are looking bright for the team.

"I am confident in the hard work we have all put in, and I am excited to see how it transpires in the season," Veronika Grote (10) said.

-Haiden Steingass

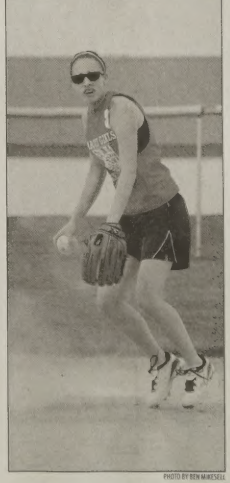


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Hillary Kartman (12) fields a grounder and prepares to throw the ball to a first baseman during a practice scrimmage.

boys' LACROSSE

The lacrosse team recently began practices and is looking to build upon last year's success for a winning season this year. Last year, the team split its record evenly with nine wins and nine losses.

> "I FEEL THAT WITH **HARD WORK, TEAMWORK AND DRIVE** WE CAN REACH OUR GOAL WE SET TO REPEAT [AS STATE CONSOLATION CHAMPS]."
> *Zane Filipovich (12)*

Some of last year's key losses included defeats to Bishop Chatard, Guerin, St. Joseph's and Fort Wayne Heritage. With the exception of Heritage, however, the team was the most dominant in the Fort Wayne area.

The team was led in goals last year by William Wright, Canterbury junior, and Nick Rahn ('11), who scored 41 and 36 goals, respectively. A roster that was dominated by seniors last year will be filled with many underclassmen this year, but also many new opportunities for new players to step into key roles.

Zane Filipovich (12) is one of this year's main leaders of the team and has high hopes for this season.

"The team is going to have a lot of potential to do well this season," Filipovich said. "We're young but have lots of players with varsity experience to help underclassmen."

Russell Smascz (11) is one of the team's returning upperclassmen and varsity players. Due to the influx of younger players, his experienced leadership is crucial to the team's success.

"It's been good to get into practices and teach the younger and inexperienced guys on the team," Smascz said.

Last year, the team capped their strong regular season with a state consolation championship.

"I feel that with hard work, teamwork and drive we can reach our goal we set to repeat [as state consolation champs]," Filipovich said.

-Jacob Cook

BASEBALL

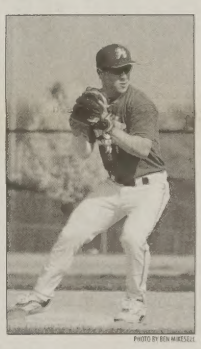


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Above: Austin Plasterer (12) sets up to throw the ball to first base.
Below: Andre Jernigan (12) prepares to field a grounder.

With many players returning from last year, the baseball team is eager to combine its experience and talent for a successful season this year.

"It's good to see a lot of returning players this year," Coach Nick Byall said. "We've got a pretty big senior presence."

The leadership of the older players will be critical in returning the team to the state championship, which is a trip the team last made in 2008. Once again, reaching the state finals will be a main focus for this year's team.

"We've been waiting for this year our entire high school career," Spencer Doane (12) said. "There's a lot of talent and experience on this team – we've got guys who have been working hard to get ready for this season and return us to state."

Another big goal for the Spartans will be reclaiming their sectional title. Before losing to Huntington North High School last year, the team had been the reigning sectional champions every year since 2007.

"Our returning guys still have a bad taste in our mouth; we definitely would like to avenge that loss," Austin Plasterer (12) said.

As the regular season nears, the team calls upon the student body to assist the team in reaching its goals; a big student section is one thing the players especially look forward to each season.

"The whole team is hoping for a big Homestead crowd at the games to support us," Brandon Soat (12) said.

-Lauren Purlee

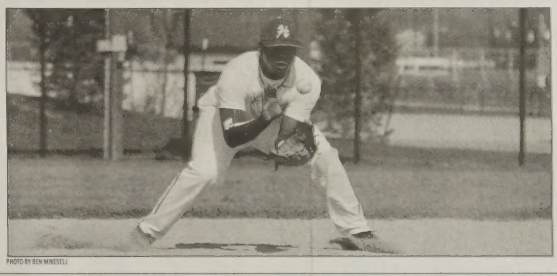


PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

girls' TRACK

The girls' track team has been training together for over three months now. After wrapping up a successful indoor season at the state meet held at Purdue, the team is prepared to begin an even more successful outdoor season.

Returning almost all of last year's varsity line-up, the team has high hopes for what these athletes, who have gained experience, will accomplish this season.

"We're lucky because a lot of our key girls are still with us this year," Coach Sara Wyss said.

Some of these returning girls that will be leading the Lady Spartans this year include Haley Havert (12), Ari Nelson (11), Emerald Eviston (12), Nicole Schneider (11) and Mariah Jordan (11).

With such a strong line-up, the team has set goals for the season that will difficult to accomplish. In the regular season, the athletes will enter every competition with their sights set on a team victory. Moreover, the team hopes to establish a significant presence deep in the postseason.

"This year, I think the main goal of the team is to get as many girls as far as possible into the postseason," Nelson said.

With their eyes on those state qualifications, the girls will be working hard to become as fit as possible for the post-season.

"The coaches are tough," Eviston said. "They push us to do things during workouts that seem beyond our capability to make us mentally strong for competition later."

Judging by their performances throughout the indoor season, it seems many of the girls are well on their way to making their state dreams a reality.

-Lauren Purlee

> "THE COACHES ARE TOUGH. **THEY PUSH US TO DO THINGS DURING WORKOUTS THAT SEEM BEYOND OUR CAPABILITY** TO MAKE US MENTALLY STRONG FOR COMPETITION LATER."
> *Emerald Eviston (12)*

METHODS behind the MADNESS

PHOTOS BY BEN MIKESELL

Sports fan personalities reveal reasons to value college basketball competition, March Madness

BY ALISON MANSFIELD AND DANA HART
Feature Editor and Copy Editor

Madness is upon us. Each March, reason gives way to television sets, sweaty college athletes and carefully-calculated predictions. The populace is overtaken not by spring fever, but by a fever that could only stem from one thing: basketball.

Though spurred by the same tournament, this frenzy strangely manifests itself as various personality changes. Sufferers have been known to develop bizarre addictions to sports networks, to succumb to gambling and to even journey across the country in search of the perfect game.

Countless upsets. 68 teams. One champion. Madness with a method.

the RISK-TAKERS

March Madness is unique because of its high level of fan involvement. Prior to the tournament, basketball enthusiasts become part of the excitement by filling brackets with their game predictions of game outcomes.

"I used an online program through ESPN to fill out my bracket," Kyle O'Brien (12) said. "[What makes brackets exciting] is that you have to fill out the whole thing at the start. It's really suspenseful to see who'll win in the end."

With upsets and close games to consider, accurately filling out a bracket becomes a tricky task. From weighing team coaches and records to picking favorite mascots, students utilize different methods to select their winning teams.

"I usually fill out quite a few brackets," Andy Harkness (12) said. "One I do by flipping a coin. After I've filled out a few, I look at the teams and decide which bracket I think is best."

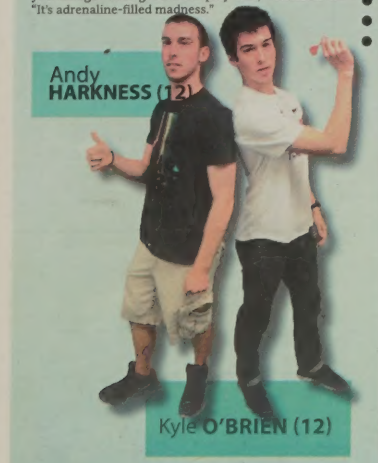
Along with the challenge of filling out a successful bracket comes the competitive comparison of brackets among friends.

"My bracket has placed third so far out of around 100 from Homestead," O'Brien said. He said being at the top of his bracket pool provides him with joy.

Harkness, another enthusiastic bracketeer, said having a successful bracket gives one bragging rights and pride in the knowledge that he or she won.

Irrespective of their bracket accuracy, students get involved and have fun predicting game outcomes.

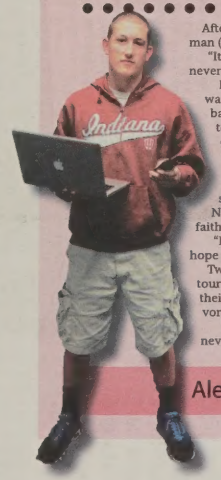
"[March Madness is exciting] because it gets people involved with the brackets. It really shows you how much you know about the sport, especially when teams you thought were good don't play well," Harkness said. "It's adrenaline-filled madness."



Andy **HARKNESS (12)**

Kyle **O'BRIEN (12)**

the ADDICT



Alec **HAMMAN (11)**

After eight years of watching March Madness, Alec Hamman (11) never loses interest in the tournament.

"It never gets old. It's fun to root for teams that you've never heard of before," Hamman said.

Hamman is a quintessential March Madness addict, watching "over 100 hours" of NCAA tournament basketball. He also frequents sports bar Buffalo Wild Wings to watch March Madness games with his friends. In order to keep up with game results, Hamman also downloads the March Madness app on his iPhone.

Ever since his grandparents instilled in him a love for IU basketball, Hamman has been a devoted Hoosier fan. Though the Hoosiers have not been in the NCAA national championship since 2002, Hamman's faith in the Hoosiers is unwavering.

"It's nice to see IU back [this year]," Hamman said. "I hope [they] beat Kentucky."

Two of Hamman's favorite parts of the March Madness tournament are "buzzer beaters" and "upsets" because of their unpredictable results. He listed Duke as his least favorite team "because they're always there."

"No team is guaranteed to win," Hamman said. "You never know what will happen."

the TRAVELER

Bailey **MILLER (10)**

This basketball season, Hoosier fan Bailey Miller (10) has been to three regular-season IU games. Whether or not the game was on a weekend, Miller wanted to see live Hoosier action, a sign of his unwavering support for IU.

"If it's a weeknight, we rush home. If it's a weekend, we stay at the Student Union. IU games are deeply-rooted in childhood," Miller said. "I was born and raised an IU fan. [My grandpa and I] share and talk about the team together."

If they are unable to attend a live game, Miller's family often gathers together to watch IU games, and Miller relishes in the family bonding. He is proud of the Hoosier's five NCAA championship banners that hang in Bloomington's Assembly Hall.

"For any fan of IU, it's the feeling at Assembly Hall that's unique. Whether they're 5-20 or going to the championship, it's always fun to watch IU."

Miller also lamented a perceived lack or respect for his favorite team.

"It's a general theme to see broadcasters hate on the Hoosiers. No one has an affinity for the Hoosiers except the Hoosiers themselves," Miller said.

Miller's support rests solely with the Hoosiers. Although IU had an adverse reputation in the '09-'10 and in the '10-'11 season, Miller has not lost faith in the crimson and cream. IU is "the only team" of which he is a fan, and that is unlikely to change.

the KNOW-it-ALL

Certainly not a neophyte to the world of college sports, March Madness has an illustrious history of which many fans are experts. U.S. history teacher Tom Stephenson is one such know-it-all.

"You [often] get teams playing against each other that have never played one another before," Stephenson said. "[During March Madness], you have to expect anything when you have upsets like a number 16 seed beating a number one."

Stephenson remembers watching his first March Madness tournament in 1964 at the age of 13. Since then, he has seen every Final Four game.

After his high school basketball career as a point guard nicknamed "Tommy Touch," Stephenson became a devoted fan of college basketball. One of his fondest March Madness memories was watching Indiana State University play in 1979, when Larry Bird took the team to the championship game against Magic Johnson.

Stephenson also vividly recalls the 1976 championship game in which IU beat Michigan after an undefeated season.

This past weekend, Stephenson attended a March Madness get-together, where he participated in a three-point shooting contest.

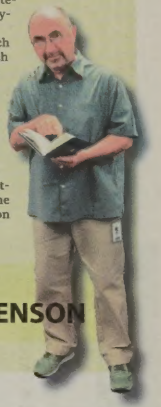
"We didn't even have a three-point line," Stephenson said.

However, aside from the excitement of get-togethers and watching games comes the excitement of making predictions about which teams will win.

"[One of the things that makes March Madness exciting is] the whole concept of 'bracketology'" Stevenson said. "Anyone can do it."

For earn such devoted fans, March Madness must certainly possess something that distinguishes it from other basketball tournaments.

"College basketball is so exciting compared to the pros," Stephenson said.



Tom **STEPHENSON**

the ALUMNI

Ellen **NELSON**
English Teacher

"People from West Virginia have a depth I haven't found in my relocation to other areas; they are very genuine. West Virginia lives for its sports.

Nicholas **BYALL**
Social Studies Teacher

I was a dedicated and loyal fan of Indiana University growing up, but I also worked as a team manager [for the basketball team] during my second year of college. That year was they went to the championship; it was awesome to root for your team in the tournament."

"I was having a really intense texting battle with my sister who was rooting for the other team; they weren't playing their best and didn't deserve to win. I fell to the floor and cried [when Purdue recently lost.]

Amy **HAMILTON**
School Counselor

I grew up loving the University of Michigan. [Growing up in Michigan,] most of my friends dreamed of going to school there.

Steve **CLOUGH**
English Teacher

the SPARTANA

NEWS The School Board recently adopted the 1:1 computing program at the high school level to be implemented next year. 1

OPINION The Spartana addresses the necessity for tax reform through the Buffett Rule in order to curb socio-economic inequality. 3

LIFE Second annual Fort Wayne's Almost Famous provides students with an opportunity to appreciate local talents. 2

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Friday, May 4, 2012 | A 2009 Pacemaker Winner | Homestead High School's News Source Since 1969

Senior Activities cut to half of previous length

Student conduct, state-wide restrictions on early release from school prompt decision to shorten event

ACTIVITY LINE-UP

Though the event begins after 5th period, certain plans remain:

1. School-provided lunch
2. Senior Variety Show
3. Senior Slideshow
4. Other games will ensue

By Megan Cater
Writer

Administrators have decided to shorten Senior Activities on May 21 to half of a school day. The activities now will start at the beginning of 5th period and last until the end of the school day. The Senior Activities will include lunch, the Senior Variety Show, Senior Slideshow and different games.

Last year, Senior Activities were a full-day event. Administrators cited difficulties controlling the conduct of former seniors as a contributing factor in their decision.

"We struggled with things not going the way we expected them to," Assistant Principal Jennifer Bay said. "People were questioning certain things. Also, the Math ECA Test is the morning of Senior Activities, so if students needed to take this, there could be conflicting issues."

A law eliminating half days that has been in effect since 2009 was also referenced as a justification for the change. The law prevents seniors from leaving the school after activities are over, forcing the school to change the way they handled the day.

Having Senior Activities in the afternoon, however, is a conflict for students who leave school early for work or college. Students that leave early would have to return to school to participate in the days' events.

Senior students are to report to the Auxiliary Gym at the beginning of 5th period on May 21.

Principal Rick Smith and other administrators will go over the guidelines and expectations regarding graduation. The ceremony process will be reviewed, and students will learn more about the way things will be on graduation day.

Although there was a school-wide Variety Show recently, the seniors put on their own Variety

▶▶ SEE 'SENIOR ACTIVITIES,' PAGE 2

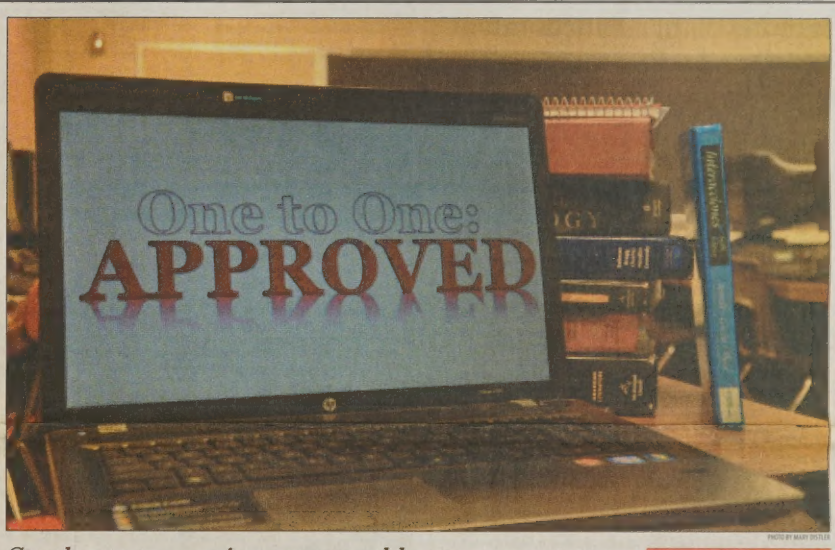


PHOTO BY MARY SHTLER

Students to receive personal laptops next year

By Tori Barnard and Laura Zweig
News Editor and Copy Editor

Teachers and administrators are moving forward with plans to implement the 1:1 Technology Program, which was passed by the school board recently for next school year. With a wealth of opportunities available following the introduction of this program, in which the district assigns each student a personal laptop to use throughout the school day and to take home, there is still no general consensus regarding which direction the classrooms will take.

"The way kids learn is changing," Assistant Principal Steve Lake said. "They want to discover and bring information back into the classroom."

While the current situation requires students to lug heavy textbooks back and forth, 1:1 Tech plans to phase out physical textbooks in favor of online versions.

"I think it's a reflection of our administration's realization that textbooks are not the endpoint of education. The world is now our textbook," Scott Hill, English teacher and member of the Technology Committee, said.

By utilizing laptops and the Internet, students are able to access a greater variety of knowledge and sources. The speed of the Internet provides a sense of instant gratification, where students immediately have the answers to all of their questions.

"A teacher will be more like an organizer with students gathering information," Lake said.

▶▶ SEE 'TECHNOLOGY,' PAGE 2

HOW IT WORKS

The individually assigned laptops will be used as tools to complement classroom work, for they allow students to pursue in-depth research instantly. Learning will take place as a result of the student's initiative to participate in a new, active classroom.

District policy change allows faculty's children to attend SACS

By Sydney Brummett
Writer

The School Board recently made a policy change which allows teachers living outside of the district to send their children to SACS schools. This change not only has an effect on those families whose children were previously unable to attend schools in the district, but also on current students.

"I believe it will have a positive effect. I know from my own experience, my children were very involved in school activities because they were comfortable in the Homestead setting," guidance counselor Tom Quigley said.

Teachers who are now allowed to send their students to SACS will be able to watch over their children more than they would be able to when sending them to different schools. Furthermore, SACS employees cite the district's academia as a beneficial opportunity for their children.

"The benefits of sending my child to a SACS school would be the academic program offerings within the SACS district," World History teacher Sara Wyss said. "Hopefully the rigor, academic expectations and the opportunities offered would help my child to realize his potential. The competitive academic atmosphere sets the standard for excellence."

The district is known for its extracurricular, co-curricular and academic excellence, and this drives teachers to put in the extra effort and send their children to SACS.

Students that currently attend

▶▶ SEE 'POLICY CHANGE,' PAGE 2

BRIEFS

TERRELL WINS PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Senior Zach Terrell was recently announced as Fort Wayne's basketball player of the year. The honor was awarded to Terrell by the SportOne group, which is affiliated with Orthopedics Northeast.

STUDENTS SET TO STUDY ABROAD THIS SUMMER
Steven Cooklev (11), Oliver Berning (11), Heather Bond (11), Colton Shaffer (11) and Ross Johnson (10) were all selected by Indiana University to participate in the University Honors Program in Foreign Language for High School Students. Cooklev, Berning and Shaffer will all be living for six weeks in Leon, Spain. Bond will study in Merida, Mexico, and Johnson will live in Krefeld, Germany. This is the most Homestead students selected to participate in the program in a single year, and the first year a student will study in Germany.

PROM
Prom tickets are being sold for $5 for seniors, and $25 for all other guests during lunches this week. Next week, the price will increase to $30 for all non-senior guests.

Student production of award-winning musical set to debut

By Priya Parikh
Copy Editor

This weekend, students will be presenting the musical Hello, Dolly! The musical is set in the 1890's in New York City, where the main character, Dolly, has decided that she is going to marry the Horace Vandergelder, a wealthy man. In order to do so, however, she must match up and rearrange the lives of several people, including her own, while finding love for herself on the way.

"When Hello, Dolly! first came out, it won a ton of awards," Victoria Malooley, director of the musical, said. "Two different actresses that made the musical famous are Carol Burnett and Barbara Streisand. Essentially it is about a matchmaker, it's based off the play called the Matchmaker."

Malooley chose Hello, Dolly! as this year's play because she saw great potential with its versatility.

"We have phenomenal ladies in our program, so I wanted to give a chance for a lot of them to shine because there are a lot of female parts in this musical," Malooley said. "I also chose it because it is very well known so I wanted to bring in more crowds. It's well

▶▶ SEE 'MUSICAL,' PAGE 2

PHOTO BY BEN BURSELL

Two cast members of Hello,Dolly! practices their lines at a rehearsal in the auditorium.

Boys' golf finds success despite fewer of seniors

Only one of five team members who previously competed at the state meet returned this season

By Lauren Purlee
Writer

Despite losing three varsity seniors last year, the boys' golf team is off to the start of another great season. Of the five players that represented Homestead at the state meet last year, only Kyle Davis (12) returns to play this year.

"I don't think it's a loss; having new players and coaches gives us a new chance to continue building our success," Saurabh Sharma (12) said.

The season began in mid-March with a relatively modest tryout. Just a little over 20 boys tried out for the team – a slightly smaller amount than usual – yet, still, nine had to be cut to whittle the roster down to the standard 13. After seven days of tryouts, the team was set: three seniors, three juniors, three sophomores, and four freshmen. Coming off of a successful season in which four of the five varsity players were seniors, the Spartan roster now includes more underclassmen than it does upperclassmen.

"Our older players are really stepping up to get everyone on the same page," Sharma said.

The Spartans are taking this rebuilding season to create a whole new team of strong golfers.

With most of the team having no experience at the varsity level, a main focus for the coaches this season will be to provide each player with the opportunity to practice in the high-pressure situations that are characteristic of varsity play.

"We're really going to try to bring up the freshmen and sophomore guys this year, to give everyone that experience necessary to grow stronger," coach J.T. McCloud said.

A lot of that growth will come from the influence of the team's veteran players.

"The juniors and seniors help out the newer members of the team just as much as we coaches do," McCloud said. "They definitely play a huge role in making sure the

▶▶ SEE 'GOLF TEAM,' PAGE 2

▶▶4
number of athletes that graduated after representing the boys' golf team at state competition last year.

▶▶ SENIOR ACTIVITIES CONTINUED FROM 1

Show during this day. The acts in this show are solely comprised of seniors, and the show is hosted by seniors. If students try out, they must turn in a permission slip that states that if they change their original performance there will be consequences. Students that are accepted into the show must bring song lyrics if they have a song in their act. Scripts must also be provided. There will also be a mandatory rehearsal to make sure things run smoothly and the content is appropriate.

"These restrictions are made so that nothing inappropriate occurs and so seniors are allowed to have a Variety Show in the future," Aman Banwait (12), Student Government member planning the event, said.

Aside from lunch and the Variety Show, there will be a slideshow of seniors and different memorable moments throughout the years. Also, there will be Senior Superlatives. Examples of the type of choices in superlatives are "Most likely to become President" and "Best hair". These titles will be named during Senior Activities and the winner of each superlative will be awarded.

"The Senior Video includes pictures and video clips of students and staff that talk about the best of times, words of wisdom, what they will miss at Homestead, and much more," Jeanine Miller, student government advisor said.

▶▶ POLICY CHANGE CONTINUED FROM 1

SACS question if this recent policy change, allowing all faculty members to send their children to district schools, will affect class sizes.

"I really don't expect that the impact will be significant to Homestead as a whole. Many of our faculty have children that are already in college or are adults. Only a certain percentage have school age children, and those are most likely distributed between all grade levels and schools within the district," guidance counselor Brian Dobias said.

Overall, there are not enough teachers in the school district, or children of the teachers, to affect the class size.

Although there are several benefits for teachers to send their children, there are also a few downsides.

"I would love for my child to attend Homestead but I'm also nervous because of the transition he would have to undergo to fit in, make friends and adjust to a new learning environment," Wyss said.

The children would have to make adjustments to acclimate themselves with a new environment and would not be able to be as close to home or to their new friends that they would make when transitioning to a new school.

This policy change will affect faculty involvement within the district, as well as that of their children.

"The Homestead teacher will become more involved in Homestead activities," Quigley said.

This change with benefit faculty members, providing them to send their children to a school district known for academic excellence, as well as making it easier for them to be both a SACS faculty member and a parent.

PHOTOS BY HANITA EPSTEIN

Second Almost Famous displays local talent

BY WILLIAM NGO
Writer

Last Saturday, young performers took the stage at Parkview Field to participate in the second annual Fort Wayne's Almost Famous. The participants entertained crowd members with singing, dancing, and other show pieces.

Although the event is only in its second year, Fort Wayne's Almost Famous has already joined the city's list of customary events, bringing light not only to community talent but the Summit City itself. Almost Famous was organized by the Mayor's Youth Engagement Council (MYEC), a young-adult group in town, who proposed an event in which teens serve as both the targeted audience and the featured talent. All of the proceeds from Almost Famous went to The Center for Nonviolence.

MYEC is composed of mainly high school students, and in order to gather the opinion of Fort Wayne youth, the group works closely with the local government.

"[MYEC] has helped me develop connections and learn how to communicate with a large committee," MYEC Head of Marketing Hanita Epstein (11) said.

Epstein and MYEC played important roles in planning this year's Almost Famous. Epstein said she enjoyed the opportunities she has been given through the group, including the opportunity to work directly with the mayor and to interact with teens in the Fort Wayne area.

This year, local band local band Leaving Rockwell, a group of students from the school, performed.

"We tried out hardest to put on a high energy show, that [was] fun for us and the crowd," Bass player Adam Breneman (11) said.

The band said that the experience allowed them to gain a better understanding of performing, giving them the opportunity to execute a genuine sound check with the use of a sound system. The show was a gateway into the local music scene for them as they were able to share the stage with artists of other genres.

Out of nearly 100 submissions, Sam Harness (11) was one of those who stood out and was selected to perform this year. In addition to covers, he sang several original songs. Prior to this year's Almost Famous, he had never played alone for a large audience. In fact, Harness' friends submitted an entry on his behalf without his awareness. The big news came as a surprise for the musician.

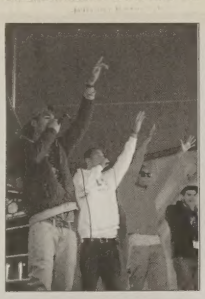
"I honestly didn't expect it at all," Harness said. "I thought it was a joke."

At the end of the night, the audience voted Harness Overall Crowd Favorite. Harness said he hopes the event gained him more local supporters.

Guest act, CertiFLYYed, a Fort Wayne based R&B group, performed their single, My City. People who attended the event were allowed to take pictures with them on the red carpet after their riveting performance.

While also focusing on talented youth, this downtown gathering has and continues to enliven the city. The teenagers who performed at Almost Famous used it as a stepping stone to, hopefully, one day achieve celebrity status outside the Summit City.

"Almost Famous really gives teenagers a good reason to become active downtown," audience member Alicia Hamman (10) said. "We're the future, so it's important to be involved now."



Above: A break-dancing group performs elaborate routines and tricks on the parking lot in front of a stage. Left: Newly famous Rap and R&B group CertiFLYYed takes the stage in front of an enthusiastic audience. The groups hit single, "My City," has inspired local pride in Fort Wayne. Afterward, the group posed for pictures with audience members.

▶▶ TECHNOLOGY CONTINUED FROM 1

With no administration mandate on how to properly implement the new machines, teachers are given freedom to determine how they will progress the curriculum.

"How the laptops will be implemented in classrooms will vary by department, subject and teacher," Hill said. "Some teachers already [use the technology]. The opportunity is already there."

Several teachers, like English teacher Olivia Valencic-Miller, have already begun plans for the upcoming school year.

"What we're looking to do is start the classroom with a brainstorming activity, which will jump into the main topic," Valencic-Miller said. "It will call upon their prior knowledge."

Personal laptops provide more opportunity for collaboration and a departure from individual-based assignments. Students will also have the opportunity to take a leading role in how they learn.

"It will be focused around "Project Based Learning"—students will guide where they go," Valencic-Miller said.

Ideally, this method of self-discovery will lead to greater interest on the students' part.

"We want kids to be able to take a personal interest in their machine," Lake said.

By gaining interest, students will become more involved in the educational process, in addition increased feelings of responsibility for their own laptop.

"We make our curriculum seem more relevant. We teach everything from a Fort Wayne, Indiana perspective," Valencic-Miller said. "Now we can gain a sense of global applicability."

Teachers feel that this new information bank available will provide for a more well-rounded and relevant education. The opportunity to utilize resources through computers will provide students with incentive to research.

"We can break down the walls between school and what students see as their 'actual lives,'" Hill said. "Most of them are already online."

Despite positive assurances from the administration, concerns still exist regarding a variety of issues including the reliability of the network, the appropriate utilization of the computers in the classroom and the teachers' ability to adapt to new technology.

"We're working out the details about what exactly is going to happen," Hill said. "What do we do with the laptops at lunch? Will they go in their lockers? What kind of accessories will we get? These are the kinds of questions we're trying to answer."

Regardless of potential kinks in the system, the administration is confident that 1:1 Tech will be a positive change.

"The first year, there's going to be bumps in the road, but people are going to have to be flexible," Lake said.

A portion of the student body is optimistic about the change.

"Initially, it's going to be a harsh transition period, but eventually people will mature," Student Government member Jack Hagedorn (11) said. "Most people will continue using the same system, but eventually more teachers will transition to utilizing the computers."

Although hesitation on behalf of some students and teachers remains, based on potential the problems will be encountered, the overall sentiment is excitement for the new opportunities available.

"It's not worth not doing it because far too many good things outweigh the bad," Lake said.

To some, this new step is a way to adapt to the changing and advancing world.

"It's the 21st century, and we need to move forward in using technology in school," Hagedorn said.

▶▶ GOLF TEAM CONTINUED FROM 1

underclassmen do well."

Thus far, the underclassmen have been doing well. Chris Eigner (9) is one of the standout additions to the team this year. In his first year of high school golfing, Eigner is the fourth member of this years' varsity team.

"He's a really solid golfer who is going to be very competitive in the years to come," Sharma said.

In its entirety, the varsity team this year is made up of Sharma, Davis, Gunnar Smith (11), and Eigner. The fifth varsity spot is dynamic, which is one of the ways that the coaches allow the entire team to experience high-pressure varsity play.

The Spartans' roster may not be as experienced as it has been in years past, but they don't necessarily see that as a problem.

"We like our team and know that getting better both as individuals and as a team is going to take us to the top," said Sharma.

This year the boys will face new rivals after being put in a new Sectional.

"Our biggest competition in this sectional will definitely come from Dekalb and Canterbury," McCloud said. "We just need to try and beat one, or both, of them to secure a spot at Regionals."

In order to achieve success this year, the boys must continue to work diligently in practice to improve their abilities. Though the lack of experience appears to be a set-back, the team continues to push past adversity throughout the season. The team hopes its hard work will pay off in competition.

The boys will host twenty-two different teams at the Homestead Invitational this Saturday at Orchard Ridge Country Club.

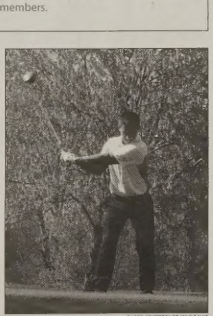


PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLE DAVIS

Above: Kyle Davis (12) tees off during an invitational. Davis is the only athlete returning from the five that participated in state competition last year. His leadership, in combination with the support of other experienced athletes, leads a young team this year.

▶▶ MUSICAL CONTINUED FROM 1

known, but also traditional, and something that we could also work with and do some new things with." Roles for the cast were set in February, and students have been practicing diligently for a month and a half.

"It's been a lot of work, especially piled with AP exams and finals coming up, but everyone in the cast makes the most out of their experience and lives in the moment," Bethany Thayer (11), said. "I will be playing the part of Dolly, and I truly enjoy portraying her because she's bold, loud and up-front, which is completely contradictory to my nature and presents me an exciting challenge."

Other students also appreciate the unusual traits their characters have in this year's musical.

"I'm playing Horace Vandergelder, the rich, mean, friendless business owner," Sahand Emamian (12), said. "I like that this character is really outside my usual character that plays the comic relief. I get to be serious with this part."

"Overall, Hello, Dolly! is a great comedy with sensational characters and extravagant costuming."

BETHANY THAYER (11)
Actress

Many of the actors in Hello, Dolly! are seniors whom Malooley has been able to work with throughout their high school careers.

"One of my favorite things about this musical are the seniors in the show. This is my fourth year of teaching here, so I've had these kids since their freshman year. It's really neat to see how these seniors have evolved as well as to see the freshman and sophomores and what great talent we have coming up," Malooley said.

The performance dates for Hello, Dolly! are this Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 4, 5 and 6th. Friday and Saturday's shows begin at 7:30 P.M., and Sunday's show begins at 2 P.M. Tickets are $5 for all SACS students and anyone under the age of 12 and $8 for adults. An additional benefit this year is that SACS employees are able to receive two free tickets by emailing Malooley.

"Overall, Hello, Dolly! is a great comedy with sensational characters and extravagant costuming, and is fun for all involved," Thayer said. "I like that this musical is a classic that most people will be able to connect to in one way or another."

the SPARTANA
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COMMENTARY:

Proposed plan to increase taxes on wealthy necessary

Equity created by Obama, Buffett tax plan required to remove socioeconomic disparity

BY RYAN BOYLAN
Opinion Co-Editor

If there is one thing Americans love–other than procreating and putting more burger patties on their ketchup sandwiches–it is their own unadulterated and misinformed notion of free market capitalism. No matter how desperately they have previously attempted to ignore the vast disparity between poor and wealthy, however, the members of Congress now have no choice but to abandon their lasseiz-faire policies in favor of a more equitable system of taxation.

The Buffett Rule, a tax plan proposed by President Obama in 2011 and named after the iconic American investor Warren Buffett–who publicly condescended members of the American aristocracy who were paying less in taxes than the bourgeoisie–that proposed a minimum tax rate of thirty percent for any individual making more than a million dollars a year.

Impacting a whopping 0.3% of taxpayers in projections, the tax plan would collect an additional $46.7 billion in the ten years following its implementation, according to a letter published in March by the nonpartisan United States Congress Joint Committee on Taxation. In Congress, Republican representatives have largely condemned the plan for lacking any consideration for the subsequent collateral damage to economic growth that would follow the increase in taxes on the rich. In an interview with CBS, Ohio Representative and Speaker of the House John Boehner said "There's a reason we have low rates on capital gains ... because it spurs new investment in our economy and allows capital to move more quickly."

This sophistic dogma has been a discreditable justification for corporate tax cuts since Reagan's administration and the supply-side hysteria of the 1980s and lacks any place in a contemporary economy. After all, if trickle-down economics were that simple, the U.S. economy would not have suffered a burgeoning unemployment rate and looming recession over the course of Bush's two-term presidency, distinguished by its reckless military spending and alacrity in giving tax credits to the upper class.

The anticipated additional tax revenue from the Buffett tax plan, although only 0.7% of the $6.4 trillion increase, will reduce the government's budget deficit and facilitate government transfer payments that will yield a larger capacity for consumption spending–the largest component of aggregate demand–and increase marginal propensity to consume as superfluously wealthy taxpayers' disposable income is diminished. The resultant surge in transaction demand will create its own supply and stimulate growth without consolidating those who are already overly endowed.

The GOP's oversimplification of the U.S. economy has not only resulted in an exaggerated perception of the effects of the prospective Buffett tax plan, which will potentially affect only approximately 200,000 taxpayers, but has also hindered any modicum of economic growth by clinging to a speciously antediluvian paradigm of free market capitalism.

COMMENTARY:

Prostitution scandal illuminates mistakes, overblown by media

BY CLAIR PRANGER
Opinion Co-Editor

Prostitution and politics never mix well, especially when the president is involved. The recent allegations of several Secret Service members of consorting with prostitutes while ensuring the security of President Obama's upcoming trip to Columbia for the Summit of the Americas has left the nearly 150-year-old agency embarrassed, and several questioning the administration's standards of conduct as a whole.

A total of 24 people have been linked to this scandal, 12 of them in the military. Though the other half is of the Secret Service, so far only nine have resigned. Some wonder why this has not caused more public outcry than it has, and while it is understandable that such behavior while on assignment for the United States should not be tolerated, a greater public condemnation is not necessary.

America has had a hatred of prostitution, perhaps one of the world's oldest professions, since its founding. Generally, loose women have been looked down upon as occupying one of the lowest rungs of society, so when men of a high-visibility occupation,such as the Secret Service, are found to be consorting with them, they immediately invoke the scorn of the populace. This distain is both warranted and unjust.

In this specific situation, the members of the Secret Service should not have been fraternizing with prostitutes while on the job. There are a myriad of better times and places in which to engage in such activities, and preparing for the president's arrival at the Summit of the Americas is neither. The Secret Service has long had access to sensitive material, most of which is levels beyond top secret. Had any of these prostitutes been connected to those unfriendly toward the United States, national security could have been compromised. If these Secret Service members are so devoid of common sense that they think such actions are acceptable, perhaps they would be better served flipping burgers at a fast food joint.

On the other hand, a public crucifixion of the Secret Service and the military is also out of the question. Yes, they made a mistake, but it is not worth calling into question the integrity of the entirety of the Obama administration. For every one person who makes poor decisions, there are at least ten who work diligently and put their lives on the line to ensure the safety and security of the president. One bad apple does not spoil the whole bunch, as they say.

In all honesty, politics has nothing to do with this alleged scandal. There are those who would wish to see the president crash and burn in the next election because of this, but it really is not fair to hold it against him personally. There have been, and always will be, those on the staff of president who make poor decisions. That fact is inevitable.

> "The Secret Service has long had access to sensitive material, most of which is levels beyond top secret. Had any of these prostitutes been connected to those unfriendly toward the United States, national security could have been compromised."
> **CLAIR PRANGER**

It is said that to err is human, and to forgive is divine. Then does that make condemnation the work of the devil? If the members connected to the allegation wish to resign, then that is their choice, but publicly calling for investigations into the inner workings of the White House is excessive in any respect. Perhaps, in this situation, it would be better for the administration to decide what they will do with those who have breached decorum rather than have a public investigation.

PHOTO BY BEN MIKESELL

Fourth state-ranked baseball teams aims for successful season

BY JACOB COOK
Business Manager

The baseball team is off to a tremendous start this season as it heads into NHC play. The team has shut down several area schools in a dominant fashion and is looking to triumph in the NHC over last year's state champions, Carroll.

The team is ranked fourth overall in class 4A with an overall record of 12-1. Its sole loss came to late-game thriller to number three ranked Huntington North. Although the team took off on an early 5-0 lead in the third inning, Huntington North rallied in the sixth inning to pull ahead and win.

However, the highlight of the team's year came from scoring 73 runs total in three consecutive games. It began with a 30-1 dominant win over Bishop Luers.

"We were just really on our game getting great hits and played good defense," Matt Volz (11) said.

In his second season on the varsity squad, Voltz is playing shortstop and has been a key contributor for hits and scoring.

Last week, the team began the NHC season with a win over East Noble. In five innings, the team won with a final score of 20-2, continuing a season of dominance. Austin Plasterer (12), Tyler Zimske (11) and Nathan Miller (12) each hit a home run for the team and sealed the most dominant win in the NHC for the week.

The team spent its spring break this year in Cincinnati, Ohio to train together for the upcoming season. During the trip, senior Josh Caccamo (12) suffered a foot injury that resulted in a strained reflex tendon. After having to sit out five games, Caccamo has rejoined the team on the field as a senior leader and starting center-fielder.

"It's been rough having to sit out, but I'm playing now and trying to help out my team with our goals," Caccamo said.

This year's squad is anchored by ten seniors, many of whom have been playing together for years.

"We've basically been playing together for our entire lives," Dan Veerkamp (12) said.

> "I think we can make it to state."
> **DAN VEERKAMP (12)**
> *Varsity Team Member*

Veerkamp is one of the team's several pitchers that has held an incredibly low runs-allowed count this year. Veerkamp believes that the strong class of seniors and high levels of maturity have contributed to the team's overall success this year and will set up future teams for success as well.

In 2009, the team made their deepest postseason run in school history as state runner-ups. With high hopes and excellent playing to support them, the team has set their sights on winning a state title.

"It's our ultimate goal, but I think we can definitely do it," Caccamo said.

They will be competing with Lake Central, Huntington North and Zionsville. Lake Central, ranked number one for Class 4A, remains the only team ranked in the top five with an undefeated record.

In the NHC, however, Homestead will not be left without competition. While Carroll is going through a rebuilding year, they have remained competitive. Also, the team will have to bring their best against Class 3A number four Norwell, who has an overall record of 10-2.

Due to the incredible number of runs scored and highly successful hitting for the team this year, its confidence is swelling to an all time high. The teams hopes its explosive start with 73 runs in three games will become the microcosm of this year's season; dominant wins and allowing very few runs.

"It's been an incredible start with one minor hiccup at Huntington North," said Veerkamp. "I think we can make it to state. We have a lot of seniors and a lot of experience and most importantly, a lot of talent."

Above: Andre Jernigan (12) prepares for his swing as he watches the pitch.

SENIOR POWERHOUSE

Spencer Doan-	Pitcher	Nate Miller-	Catcher	Brandon Soat-	Pitcher
Andy Harkness-	Pitcher	Austin Plasterer-	2nd Base	Dan Veerkamp-	Out Field
Andre Jernigan-	Short Stop	Michael Redden-	Pitcher	Jake Weber-	Pitcher

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LENDING a hand

Students, faculty travel around the world, join in mission, service trips during break

By Alison Mansfield
Feature Editor

Food, shelter and education are easily taken for granted in areas with high standards of living. However, each year, students and faculty aid impoverished areas through their participation in mission trips and service projects. Driven by a desire to gain new perspectives, a mission to share their faith and a passion for serving others, students and faculty have traversed the globe to lend a helping hand.

HELPING AT HOME

While some students choose to assist international communities, English teacher Howard Jankowski and a group of 45 students provided humanitarian aid closer to home. Traveling to the economically depressed county of Pendleton, West Virginia, this group of volunteers from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church worked seven days to build houses, replenish resources and provide other needed relief.

The trip commenced with a strenuous mountain climb designed to foster a sense of community as students grew closer to God and one another.

"The mountain climb is the most rigorous part of the trip, by far. There are only unstable boulders for footing, so everyone lends each other a hand to keep from tumbling down the mountain," Faustyn Pavicich (11) said. "It was a good experience to help and support someone and to see everyone else supporting each other too. And it's always so rewarding to reach the top."

United as a team, students joined forces to uplift the Pendleton community by building Habitat for Humanity homes.

"[One lady we helped] was living in a run-down trailer on her parents' property; if that trailer were in Fort Wayne, it would have been condemned; it was a wreck," Jankowski said. "Then we came in and built this modest little house for her. To see her walk around in it, you would have thought it was a mansion."

This service trip had a tremendous impact on the people of Pendleton; however, the value of fortifying a community served also to help students fortify their faith and respect for each other.

"As a teacher, I have a mission to educate students and help them grow as young adults," Jankowski said. "[For me, this trip] allows me to take my mission to a level that is normally limited by teaching in a secular institution. It's extremely rewarding to watch students transform during the trip and to have the opportunity to talk to them in a ministerial way."

AIDING IN AFRICA

On her fourth trip to Kenya, Caroline Cooper (12), had an impact on an international scale.

Accompanying her father, an orthopedic surgeon who has provided medical aid in Africa for 15 years, Cooper spent her days playing with local children, helping in an orphanage, providing medical assistance and teaching school lessons.

"The kids get really, really excited to see you there," Cooper said. "Most of them have never seen a white person before; they just want to touch you. The villagers in Kenya are some of the friendliest people I have ever met."

Cooper found the Kenyan living conditions to be markedly different than those in the United States. Profound poverty and lack of resources are commonplace in Africa, and visiting Kenya caused Cooper to more fully appreciate the hardships and resilience of the Kenyan people. She left inspired to serve others.

"I definitely want to go back to Kenya or some other area of Africa someday," Cooper said. "I want to become a teacher and missionary now; I never would have had the interest if it hadn't been for my trips to Kenya."

LENDING A HAND IN HAITI

The nation of Haiti has long struggled with widespread poverty; however, in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake, this destitution has escalated to new heights.

Traveling with a group of students who attend The Chapel, Katie Lehman (12) and others partnered with Mission of Hope, an organization dedicated to providing relief, education and Christian ministry to the people of Haiti.

Lehman, commenting on her first mission trip outside the U.S., said visiting Haiti made her more thankful for her family, good health and education.

"[Being in Haiti] was almost like seeing a civilization you read about in history books," Lehman said. "The whole country is kind of starving–there's a limited supply of water, trash all over the streets and people carrying baskets everywhere."

During their stay in Haiti, Lehman and her group interacted with village locals, painted houses and evangelized through skits and other creative means of communication.

"There were so many big moments [that stuck with me from my trip.] I was so happy to see different people from different backgrounds coming together as a community," Lehman said. "It was definitely and eye-opener; five hours on a plane was all it took for the world to seem totally opposite."

LOOKING FORWARD TO NICARAGUA

Although many students have already completed service trips, Scott Espich (11) plans to spend two weeks in Nicaragua this summer with a group from Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Partnering with the humanitarian organization Food for the Hungry, the group will work to share their faith and provide the people of Nicaragua with needed supplies.

"I love doing service projects because[it gives you a lot of perspective," Espich said. "You go hoping to show people an aspect of your faith or your strength, but in the end, you take away more from talking to these people than you could ever give to them. It makes it hard to complain about petty things when others are in much worse conditions."

As students continue to reach out to others through volunteer service, they gain a sense of pride in realizing their ability to serve and uplift others.

"It's really cool to be the hands and feet–to be the one serving on the 'front lines.' It's not just going to church, it's not just throwing money at the problem, it's being there to actually serve," Espich said. "It's amazing to see firsthand how God can work through you and how He impacts other people."

KENYA

Caroline Cooper (12) worked with friends in her youth group and at school to make

150 bracelets

for the children she was spending the week with. Aside from the bracelets, she took donated shirts from friends.

Above: Four Kenyan boys received extra Catch Phrase Club shirts after the shirts were donated by the club. Left: A young boy enjoys a snack outside of his home in the village. Below: Children at the orphanage Caroline Cooper (12) visited display their coloring pages to one another.

PHOTOS FROM CAROLINE COOPER

WEST VIRGINIA

Along with building houses for Habitat for Humanity in Pendelton County, the 60 participants brought over

12,000 pounds of food

that was donated by the 7,000 families in their church. The food and housing supplies will help keep the county members stocked until November.

Brian Cox (12) hammers siding onto a woman's one bedroom house in the mountains of Franklin, West Virginia. Cox returned this year for his second time on the annual trip.

PHOTO BY ISAAC MILLER

HAITI

While on their trip, the members of The Chapel organized to build a home for a recent convert to the faith. In order to finance building this house, the teens raised

$5,000 for building funds

that made the man's home not only paid for, but completely finished when they left.

Left: Ashley Morgan (12) and Nathan Haines (12) play with children at the nearby school during a day off from building. Right: The 15 members of the trip pose with local children outside of the finished house.

PHOTOS FROM KATIE LEHMAN

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